

# AMERICAN

*Cattle Count*

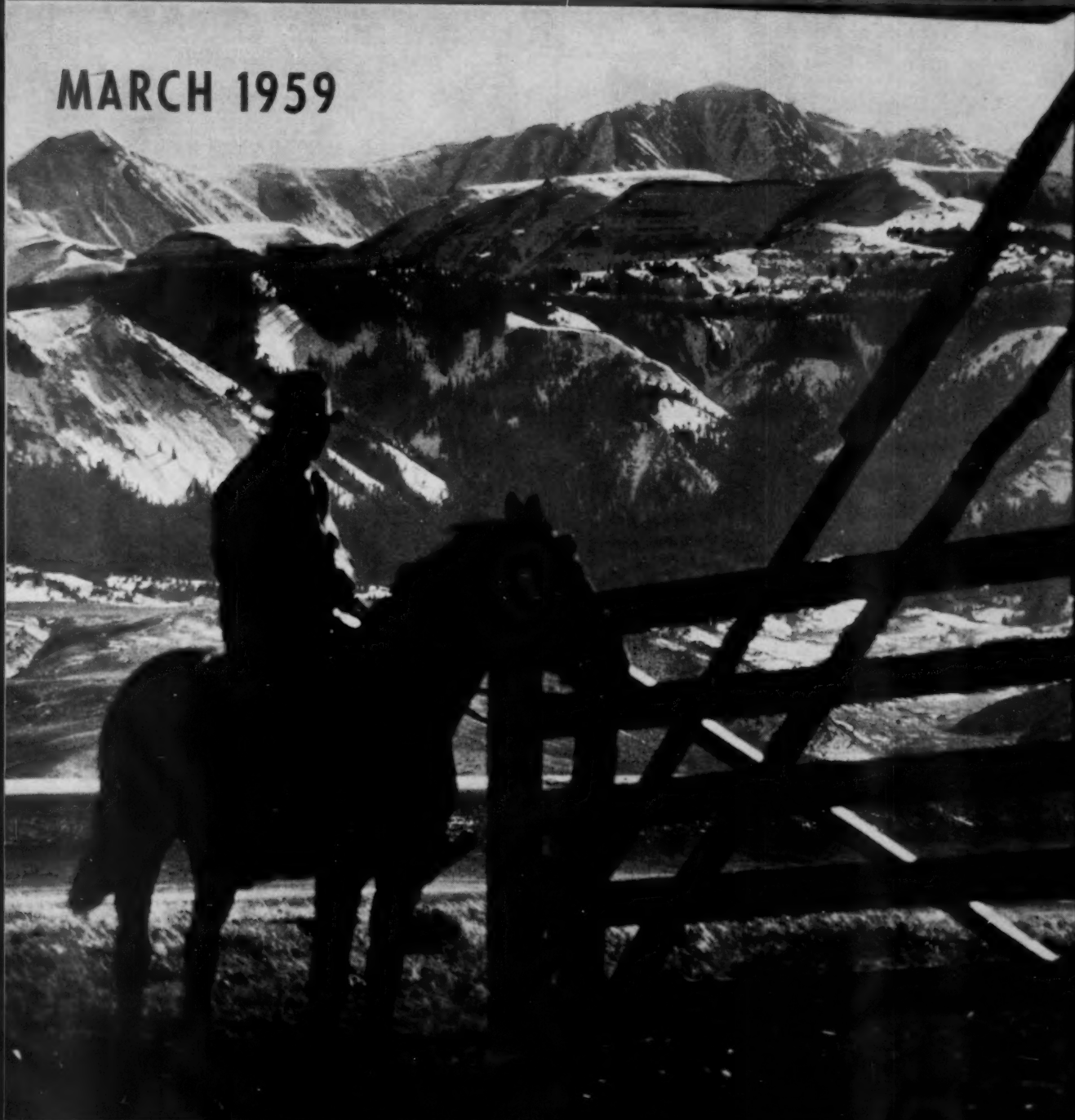
RADFORD HALL • AVERAGING INCOME

## CATTLE PRODUCER

• THE CATTLEMAN'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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MARCH 1959





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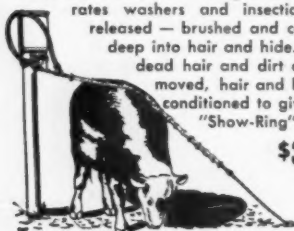
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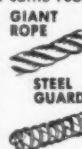
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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



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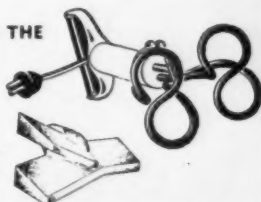
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## Letters To The Editor

**READY FOR SPRING**—It has been a long, cold winter here. Cattle taking more care than usual. All crops good here this year. Maybe has spoiled some of us. Everyone ready for spring work to open up.—Howard Stephens, Sharpsburg, Ill.

**NOT TOO BAD**—The winter hasn't been too bad here. There is plenty of hay till grass comes. Prospects are for a good calf crop.—Roy Keating, Utica, Mont.

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DAVID O. APPLETON.....Editor  
ROY W. LILLEY.....Business Manager  
Eastern Advertising Representative  
John K. O'Donnell,  
153 Seaman Ave., New York 34, N. Y.  
Phone LOrraine 7-3010

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Membership dues in the American National Cattlemen's Association: 7 cents per head of cattle owned, \$10 minimum, annually.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



**RAINED GOOD**—It is a pleasure to send my dues. Southern California has finally been smiled upon by the powers above. It has "rained good." Most people in the cow business do not understand our unique weather in southern California. We get no summer rains and usually depend on rains that come along in two or three months during the winter. The best seasons would be rains in January, February and sprinkles in March. By that time the ground would hold moisture until the last of April when the feed would fall down and cure-dry on the ground; this feed would then pasture our cattle until the next year's feed was grown.

The trick is to estimate your feed and cut or add to your herd to fit your feed. If you lack too much feed on the ground you have not realized enough from your ranch. And if you have overstocked you can buy some very high-priced hay. Hay prices are always high in this area. We have a few summer plants the cows browse on like Australian saltweed, poison oak, sage and saltbrush. Our grass-fed cattle go on the market shortly after the feed matures in May.—**Ralph E. Dickenson**, Santa Paula, Calif.

**SINCE 1886**—I have lived on this ranch since Sept. 10, 1886. It was my father's original homestead. I sold my breeding cows and leased my ranch. I and Mrs. Morris were at the Omaha meeting and found it very interesting and educational.—**Alfred Morris**, Wood Lake, Nebr.

**THIRD GENERATION**—I am mighty glad to be a member of the American National. The market letter and livestock forecasts are the best I have seen and I sure don't want to be without it. The magazine is tops.

On account of my health I sold my cowherd and am turning the ranch over to my son Charles. My father started that ranch in 1885 with a 160-acre homestead. The third generation is now on the Lazy Open A Half Circle.

We have had lots of snow and cold weather this winter; looks like early and good grass next spring. Local cattle market has been very active and prices high. I sure hope none of the boys get an arm broke. It takes a lot of money to operate.—**J. E. Vawter**, Oakley, Kan.

**HEADED FOR DITCH**—I am entirely out of the cattle business and my son Waldo is taking over. I have always felt my membership with our organization has been profitable and enlightening. It sure covers the problems of us who are in the livestock business. Your January magazine was an excellent one. The treatise on "Currency Debauchery Is Sure Road To Ruin" is the best I have read. Wish our country could get its eyes open and see what is ahead of us. If we do not give this inflation more serious thought, we are headed for the ditch.—**Con Parsons**, Harrison, Nebr.

**IMPENDING BUILD-UP**—Was very gratified to learn that at our recent convention you spared no effort to warn us all of the impending build-up in the beef cattle numbers. They say a cattle feeder's memory only goes back six months, but I am sure a few of us will never forget the shellacking we took in '52 and '53. This country is full of cattle this year, mostly because of cheap feed and all the easy money made in cattle during '58. Would like to urge more members to use Mr. Blaine's office. They do a wonderful service on all traffic problems.—**R. W. Ulitch**, Sublette, Ill.

**NEED HELP**—Our section right now is in extreme need of help in keeping the national forest service from wiping out the cattle industry completely from our area—and we are mindful of the fact that as our permits go so go the rest in due time.—**Mrs. E. Averett**, Springerville, Utah.

**SO FAR, SO GOOD**—Have had a fairly nice winter. Has been open most of the time. Cattle doing good. Plenty of feed everywhere. Calving has started for some. Most of us wait till last of February or March. Hope the nice weather cooperates then.—**John A. Streiff**, Flats, Nebr.

**INFLATION**—I like reading your little magazine very much and one article, by Hubbard Russell, impressed me about this never-ending inflation. Something should be done to awaken the public before it is too late. I am a rancher and farmer who came to Elk City, Okla., in 1906. I am now 61 years old, I have seen quite a few changes. My first venture in 1919-21 almost broke me, but by hard work and good luck and God's blessing I have 3,400 acres of grass and farm land. My health is forcing me to retire. I have a lovely wife, one daughter, 20 years old, one son, 18, and a son 14. I would like to see a brighter future for them and the other millions of young Americans.—**Cleo Walter**, Elk City, Okla.

**CROPS LOOK GOOD**—This year the late rains slowed down the early range pasture but enabled the stockman to plant grain and forage crops. Due to so much sunshine and warm weather and the late rains, all crops look exceptionally well.—**Charles M. Kimerer**, Meridian, Calif.

**SIXTEEN CALVES**—Sally, a cross by a Jersey cow and a Shorthorn bull, had her 16th living calf on Jan. 28, 1959. Sally was born Sept. 9, 1943. When she had her 16th calf she was 15 years, 4 months and 19 days old. Sally's first calves were twins. From then on she had a calf just about once a year. Is this a record cow?—**Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Carter**, Kinder, La.

(Continued on Page 33)



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**Most of the increase** in cattle numbers during 1958 (they reached about 97 million head) was in the western Corn Belt, southern plains and western states, the result largely of more cattle in feedlots and restocking where drouth had hit in recent years. Abundant range, feed, roughage, grain in much of the area, and relatively good prices, encouraged expansion. And the increase was all in beef cattle. Dairy animals decreased ½ million head.

This put beef animals 2 million head above the previous record in 1956 (included are 6.5 million cattle and calves on feed, as against 5.9 million last year).

Beef cows were up 1.3 million head, or 5 per cent—75,000 below the record high in 1955. Beef heifers 1-2 years old totaled 6.8 million, .8 million over 1958's count and 287,000 above the previous record. Calves under a year totaled 19.7 million, largest ever held. Steers at a record 10,213,000 head were up 765,000. These total 4,088,000 for a one-year increase in cattle "not-for-milk," although still below the annual increases in 1951, 52, 53.

**Biggest increase** in beef cattle came in the north central states. This area, roughly the Corn Belt, with a third of the nation's cattle, tallied a 1,993,000 gain, or 7 per cent. Suited to flexibility in either cow-and-calf or calf-to-a-yearling operation, the Corn Belt often raises its own when the price of feeder calves gets much above \$25. The north central area now represents 43.9 per cent of all beef cattle (40.6 per cent in 1948).

The 1958-59 increase in the West was 5 per cent, or 769,000 head. This area now has 21.1 per cent of the national beef herd. In 1948 it had 24 per cent. Texas-Oklahoma represents 15 and 7 per cent now (19.6 per cent in 1948), although gaining 1,211,000 or 13 per cent in the past year.

In the Southeast and south Atlantic areas the 1958-59 increase was only 1 per cent—103,000 head. The South represents 18.1 per cent of total beef cattle (14.5 per cent in 1948). In previous years the South had built beef herds substantially, with its 1948-59 increase of 5,659,000 head representing a 95 per cent advance in that class.

**The producing plant** of the country—the beef female class—is above any previous level and productivity per unit is up. Observers point out that while the increased numbers this year might be swallowed without too much effort, continuing big increases might not be so easily gulped.

**Cattle slaughter** is expected to continue cyclically low in 1959 as herds are built up further, says USDA. Slaughter of fed cattle this spring will exceed that of a year earlier and for the year will probably be a little larger than in 1958. Prices of fed cattle may slip a little in late winter, but no large increase is expected. Although they may be a little below a year earlier until spring, by late summer they will probably again be above last year. Numbers of grass cattle and young stock will continue larger than in 1958 as a larger calf crop in 1959 seems likely.

Hog slaughter in 1959 will exceed 1958 throughout the year as a result of a 17 per cent larger 1958 fall pig crop and a prospective 13 per cent larger 1959 spring corp. Increases in the sheep and lamb inventory, more stock lambs and more on feed set the stage for somewhat larger sheep and lamb slaughter in 1959.

## Radford S. Hall

YOU TAKE LIFE at its terms, not yours. That harsh fact was brought forth clearly in the death of Radford Hall at the age of 52.

We were shocked at the death of this man in the prime of life—at the point where he was now in his stride for expert service to the industry of which he had long been a part. But it was not to be.

Rad Hall had known the grueling work of beating around the country in his job. It was part of his work. He accepted it as such.

In the two weeks before his death he had made the rounds in Washington, D. C.; he took off for New

York for a state cattlemen's convention there; then to Tennessee for another state meeting and down to Dallas, Texas, to make some initial arrangements for next year's convention of the American National.

Rad's loyalty to the industry was evident to all. And there was something more: his eagerness to give himself wholly to his job. F. E. Mollin, his predecessor, who had put in 30 years of work "on the go," said, "Rad is getting used to this pressure, and he's holding up; he's doing the job." He held up to the end.

PROBABLY NO MAN in the industry had more friends than Rad had. He took time out for everyone, even those remotely connected with the industry. And by the same token, he had a wide and understanding relationship with many men in Washington, in high and low places.

The job he had gave him wide latitude to build the association and to carry out its policies. He used this latitude to make friends for the industry. He had that capacity. And always he stood staunchly for the association's long-time independent and strong policies—he was ever aware of his personal responsibility to every cattleman, large or small.

To those of us who worked with him, he was the ideal boss. He had faith in his fellow workers. He gave them the "rope" they wanted. And his direction was mild and understanding.

He worked hard for the present and looked confidently into the future for the association and the in-

dustry. But life's timetable was different from his.—D.O.A.

\* \* \*

RADFORD HALL died Feb. 17 in Denver of a stroke. He had been the American National's executive secretary since Jan. 1956 and for 11 years assistant to F. E. Mollin who passed away last October. Previously he was livestock field editor and advertising manager for the Denver Record Stockman.

Born in Trenton, Neb., May 31, 1906, he attended schools in Victor, Pueblo and Denver, Colo., and the University of Colorado. He held memberships and office in many industry and related organizations.

Survivors are his widow and a son, Skidmore, in Denver, and a daughter, Mrs. Bruce Mitchell, Santa Barbara, Calif., and one granddaughter. Also surviving are his mother, Mrs. Frank Hall, Denver, a brother, Truman Hall, Greeley, Colo., and a sister, Mrs. Grant Knight, Grand Valley, Colo.



Ed Painter photo

RADFORD HALL . . . his last speech.

## Grading All to the Good

FEDERAL BEEF GRADING has stimulated price competition, held down costs for marketing and contributed to changes in the organization of the wholesale meat industry.

Basing his statements on a recent study of federal beef grading, W. Y. Fowler, extension farm management specialist at New Mexico State University, says that official grades provide packers, wholesalers, retailers and others with a common language and a basis around which prices can be established with more accuracy, ease and speed. They also aid consumers in expressing their preferences more effectively.

These are some of the principal findings in a study by the Marketing Research Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with the Babson Institute of Business Administration on uses and economic effects of federal grades and proprietary brands for beef.

LARGEST VOLUME CUSTOMERS for federally graded beef are the retail chains. (94 per cent of beef sold by them in 1955 was U. S. graded.) Many chains have developed detailed specifications, consistent with their buying procedures, that are tied to the federal grades.

Most independent packers, wholesale distributors, and independent retailers, as well as the chains, favored either the present voluntary system of beef grading or a compulsory grading system. Two-thirds or more of the beef sold for fresh consumption by each of these groups is sold under the U. S. grades.

NATIONAL PACKERS tended to sell and promote the sale of beef under their packer brands and to sell the federally graded product only on request (in 1955 they sold 27 per cent U. S. graded beef, the remainder either packer graded or ungraded). Some favored discontinuance of federal grading.

Independent packers most consistently in favor of federal beef grading usually were the larger shipper-type packers selling high percentages of their beef to retail chains and other large-volume accounts. Those



opposed most often were the older, small-volume, or local type packers, or firms located in deficit areas of meat production.

An interesting comparison made in the report shows that concentration is less of a factor in the packing industry today than at any time in the past half century. For cattle, the percentage of commercial slaughter accounted for by the four leading packers dropped steadily from about 54 per cent in 1916 when the government initiated work in developing meat grades to about 31 per cent in 1955—a decline of about 43 per cent in relative position.

Although refinements may be needed in our U. S. beef grades (USDA is studying this problem now), the Babson-USDA report gives abundant proof of the great value of the federal beef grading system to the cattle industry.

## Cattle Must Move

ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS that the American National backed the brucellosis regulations on interstate shipment of cattle was to get uniform regulations—uniform state regulations.

But evidently the states have not made much progress toward that goal.

At a Chicago meeting of the National Brucellosis Committee it was brought out that many states, mainly in the East and Midwest, will not accept officially vaccinated animals from brucellosis accredited areas without quarantine or further testing.

So, even though the West has started to go along with the federal program, it still cannot move its cattle to some states even from certified areas. In other words, the regulations pretty generally agreed upon evidently cannot be lived up to.

IT MAY BE that this shows that what works well

enough in range areas is hard to apply to a concentrated dairy area. It was hoped that the original program had flexibility enough to meet the problem.

If this situation persists, there can be only one obvious result: The whole program is going to slow down and may take years to get going again, and the eastern and middle western states will suffer as much as any other.

So we have a two-way problem now.

1. In many cases, even the regulations that have already been agreed upon are not being lived up to in all cases either by the federal government or by the cooperating states.

2. And, more basic, it may have been wishful thinking in the first place to expect that one over-all program could apply both to dairy and range operations.

It seems that our hope lies now in a resolution passed at Omaha by the American National which calls for a committee of all interested states to try to find a way in which officially vaccinated animals can move freely.

WHILE THE PROGRAM is designed to get rid of brucellosis, another one of its aims is to permit movement under reasonable rules. Obviously, the program cannot be worked out overnight. But just as obviously, cattle must be permitted to move in the meantime.

## News Note

Edgewater, Colo., a little town adjoining Denver, can thumb its financial nose at the world, says the Denver Rocky Mountain News. The story quotes Mayor Carl R. Swanson: "During the past year we have completed paying for all our capital improvements, we have no outstanding obligations of any kind, except, of course, current monthly obligations, and they are kept to a minimum."

This is, indeed, news.

## Executive Secretary's Report from Washington

A report to the executive committee of the American National Cattlemen's Association was included in the last work that Executive Secretary Radford Hall performed before his sudden death on Feb. 17.

Things evidently were fairly quiet in Washington as far as livestock legislation was concerned, but the report listed:

**BEEF PROMOTION**—A number of bills had been introduced in both Houses, which, Mr. Hall said, "gives ample evidence of considerable support for the legislation to permit voluntary deductions at markets for beef promotion, but it was also apparent that failure of the legislation in the past few sessions had left its mark." He said Congressmen dislike championing what they think might be a losing cause and that he hoped the industry will present a united front this session.

**IMPORTS**—Along the line of one of the resolutions passed at Omaha asking for tightening up of slaughter standards in foreign countries from which imports are accepted, the USDA has removed Honduras from the list of countries allowed to import into the U. S.

Since Sweden has had no outbreaks

of foot-and-mouth disease since 1952, the USDA put that country on the eligible list for live animal imports.

He said the department should be commended for the fact that permitted importations over the years have been so controlled as to keep this country free from foot-and-mouth disease.

**MILITARY BEEF PURCHASES**—He said spokesmen for the Quartermaster Corps gave him assurance that they were buying the full weight range of beef authorized in the regulations, with the exception of beef bought for resale at post exchanges, in which cases they must, like any other retail establishment, make purchases in accordance with desires of the customer, which is for lighter carcasses.

The McCarran amendment in the Defense Department Appropriations Act, which requires purchase of American produced beef for Armed Forces except under unusual circumstances, is again included in this year's budget but it is also again marked for deletion. Mr. Hall said that the association will have to watch closely to retain this valuable provision.

**MEAT INSPECTION APPROPRIATION**—This year's \$21,475,000 in the budget, in the opinion of packer repre-

sentatives, Mr. Hall said, will permit the Meat Inspection Division to maintain an adequate staff of inspectors to provide needed consumer protection.

**BEEF GRADING**—Mr. Hall noted how closely the USDA-Babson Institute report on a comprehensive beef grading study (see editorial page) coincided with the findings and conclusions of our own association and our committee to study beef grading.

**WILDERNESS BILL**—In the various versions of the wilderness preservation system proposals that have been introduced in this session, none is materially different in purpose from preceding ones, Mr. Hall said. The words have been changed but the tone remains the same. He said clause, "The preservation of wilderness is paramount," which was criticized so severely at last fall's western hearings has been dropped out "but the intent is still painfully evident."

He said there may be additional western hearings in Washington and Arizona and possibly a hearing in Ely, Minn., where a wilderness area is reported to have damaged the local economy through reduction in tourist volume. Hearings will also be held in  
(Continued on Page 22)

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18	16	3½	11.7	30	18.3	4.94
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# Cattle Count Up 4 Million

**Will further expansion be orderly ... or will it come with a bang? ... The answer lies with the individual rancher.**

**By Lyle Liggett**

No one but the individual rancher can supply the answer to what the nation's cattle inventory will do in the months ahead.

That inescapable conclusion threads its way through every analysis of the Jan. 1 estimates of cattle population released last month by USDA.

To an industry somewhat accustomed to violent fluctuations of its basic production potentials, the revelation that the beef cattle population increased more than four million units in one year couldn't have come as much of a surprise.

Many predictions had been made over recent months that the inventory would be up, "educated guesses" ranging from two to five million. But not all stockmen had paid close attention to dwindling slaughter figures or record-setting imports. Retention of "only a few" old cows or extra calves in their herds wouldn't amount to much, they thought.

Actually the increases in beef cattle numbers between Jan. 1, 1958, and the first of this year was not a record setter. Several other years, particularly in the 1950-53 period, had seen large numerical increases in the beef categories—and many other years of "up-cycles" had had larger one-year percentage gains.

But the startling comparison to be drawn in 1958's increase of 4,088,000 head of beef cattle is that it is the largest one-year increase from the bottom of a cycle. Most other major boosts in beef cattle numbers had been preceded by a year or two of relatively small increase.

If history truly repeats itself, a flat prediction could be made now that the nation will be burdened by an additional increase in beef cattle numbers this year of between six and 10 million head. And 1960's increase would be even greater.

However, there are several internal and external factors which indicate that the nation's beef cattle herd will not "explode" this year. There will be an increase in numbers—only a major reversal in weather, feed supplies and economic conditions could halt that. And, even though it probably will be a relatively slower and more orderly climb than in other cycles, the potential is here NOW for a dramatic—and serious—expansion.

Tables on these pages will indicate

the relative positions of the various beef cattle categories. They will also indicate that cattle held for milk production show comparatively little change and little hint of major future fluctuations. So this category can be left out of consideration of the beef production situation.

The increase of 2,156,000 head of beef "she-stuff" in one year is surely a count-down warning of what lies ahead. Although the number of beef cows is still some 75,000 below the peak year of 1955, it doesn't take a long memory to recall what happened in 1955 and 1956 as the product of these extra 75,000 factories came to market.

The increase of 759,000 beef heifers cannot entirely be attributed to greater numbers on feed when the inventory was made, even though the feedlot count is a record-breaker. Many extra heifers remain on ranches.

And many heifers counted by USDA are already bred and ready to calve as two's this very month.

Surprisingly, the number of steers in the 1959 inventory is not an all-time high. But previous peaks in this category can only be assumed in the years before 1920 when USDA began breaking the national cattle herd into separate tabulations. The steer figure for 1920 was 10,027,000, a little below this year's stock, but also below World War I peaks. Small consolation, however,

## LIVESTOCK TOTALS

(In thousands)

	1959	1958	Av. '48-57
Beef Cattle ..	64,025	59,937	52,596
Milk Cattle ..	32,826	33,413	35,398
Hogs .....	57,201	50,980	54,839
All Sheep ..	32,644	31,337	31,467
Stock Sheep..	28,364	27,327	27,316
Horses &			
Mules .....	3,079	3,354	6,075
Chickens .....	383,257	370,884	415,324*
Turkeys .....	5,861	5,542	5,015†

\* Excluding commercial broilers.

† Excluding fryers.

when one considers that many of the extra steers on hand this winter came in among the record 1,141,000 cattle imported from Canada and Mexico.

Calf numbers stand at an all-time high by a margin of more than three-fourths of a million. Many, of course, are on feed and will not be a factor except as they burden the market over the next several months. But among those extra calves are many heifers available for any additional stocking contemplated by ranchers.

No matter how the 1959 calf crop is figured, it still stacks up to an increase of anywhere from half to a full million head. A reduction of highly fertile dairy cows whittled the net increase in cows to a little more than 600,000 head. This, however, means that the entire calf-crop increase expected will be in beef critters.

Imports for 1959 will likely be less than 1958's record. Western Canada cattlemen scrounged their ranges last year to fill the across-the-border demand, and their cattle numbers are down a dramatic 19 per cent now. Mexican officials, through changes in export tax bases and other "discouragements," are attempting to build that country's cattle industry. Prices north of the border, however, might still at-

## CATTLE COUNT IN U. S.

(In thousands)

	Value per Head	Total All Cattle	Total Beef Cattle	Cows & Hf. 2 Yrs. Up	Hf. 1 to 2 Years	Beef Cattle Breakdown				Cattle* on Feed	Total Milk Cows
						Calves	Steers	Bulls			
1942 \$	55.00	76,205	37,188	12,578	4,055	12,219	6,596	1,740	4,185	38,837	
1943	69.30	81,204	40,964	13,980	4,547	13,239	7,361	1,837	4,445	40,240	
1944	68.40	85,334	44,077	15,521	4,971	13,768	7,849	1,968	4,015	41,257	
1945	66.90	85,573	44,724	16,456	5,069	12,871	8,329	1,999	4,411	40,849	
1946	76.20	82,235	43,685	16,408	4,859	12,810	7,727	1,882	4,211	38,549	
1947	97.50	80,554	42,871	16,488	4,636	12,804	7,109	1,834	4,322	37,683	
1948	117.00	77,171	41,002	16,010	4,518	12,046	6,672	1,756	3,821	36,169	
1949	135.00	76,830	41,560	15,919	4,657	12,033	7,270	1,681	4,540	35,270	
1950	124.00	77,963	42,508	16,743	4,754	12,516	6,805	1,690	4,390	35,455	
1951	160.00	82,083	46,685	18,526	5,122	14,319	7,029	1,689	4,534	35,398	
1952	179.00	88,072	52,837	20,863	5,971	15,829	8,400	1,774	4,961	35,235	
1953	128.00	94,241	58,320	23,291	6,535	17,440	9,147	1,907	5,754	35,921	
1954	92.00	95,679	59,518	25,050	6,365	17,978	8,229	1,896	5,364	36,161	
1955	88.20	96,592	61,231	25,659	6,514	18,785	8,444	1,829	5,786	35,361	
1956	88.00	96,804	62,067	25,516	6,238	18,979	9,560	1,775	5,880	34,737	
1957	91.60	94,502	60,232	24,754	6,017	18,621	9,105	1,735	6,067	34,270	
1958	119.00	93,350	59,937	24,287	6,063	18,491	9,448	1,648	.....	33,413	
1959	153.00	96,851	64,025	25,584	6,822	19,755	10,213	1,651	.....	32,826	

\* Included in other beef classifications.



tract substantial numbers to fill the "unsaturated" areas of Texas and elsewhere in the Great Plains.

Not to underrate the potential in beef production in the Southeast in any way, it is interesting to note that the generally expected increase in cattle numbers in that area did not materialize. In fact, several southern states—noted for rapid gains in the cotton-to-cattle shift of the early 1950's—are down in beef cattle numbers from last year and considerably withdrawn from their peaks in 1954-57.

Greatest gains, as could be expected, came in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and other states of the mid-continent. Drouth restocking and tremendous feed supplies created a vortex to which any kind of beef animal was attracted. To what extent the restocking will continue is purely speculative because the vulnerability

of the area to rapid switches in feed supply is fast becoming a well-recognized problem.

Expert observers predict that beef cattle prices through most of 1959 will not be much changed from last year. Increases in slaughter of fed cattle may be offset somewhat by further early reductions in slaughter of she-stuff and calves. Unless the weather turns sour drastically in many areas, there will be little incentive for unloading cows and calves early.

As Dr. Herrell DeGraff and other observers have pointed out, the cattle industry is on the threshold of a further runaway expansion. Whether it will be orderly and in pace with effective demand for beef, or whether it will come along with a bang later this year or in 1960-61 is yet to be seen. And governing it all will be the extent to which stockmen observe and heed the various warning signs.

## Hogs and Sheep and Lambs And Broilers Increased, Too

Stock sheep and lambs on Jan. 1 totaled 28,364,000 head, up 4 per cent and the largest inventory since 1948. Stock sheep numbers of the 11 western states, Texas and South Dakota, increased 5 per cent. Lamb numbers showed the largest increase nationally, ewe lambs up 8 per cent and wether lambs up 10 per cent.

Hog numbers were the largest since 1952, totaling now 57,201,000 head—12 per cent more than a year ago. Hogs and pigs under six months of age totaled 38,030,000 head—third largest on record.

Chickens were up a little in the government's figures, but these were "on farm" birds. A recent count of broiler production (the real competition) for 22 states (90 per cent of the production) showed almost 1.5 billion birds in 1958, up 15 per cent over 1957.

## Feed Grain and Concentrates In Bigger than Usual Supply

Feed grains and other concentrates for the 1958-59 season are 12 per cent more than in 1957-58 and a third larger than the 1952-56 average. This includes a record 1958 feed grain crop, the record feed grain carry-over from prior years and a big supply of by-product feeds. Hay production during 1958 was slightly above 1957 and 16 per cent above the '47-56 average. Hay stocks on Jan. 1, 1958 were 4 per cent above a year earlier. Hay disappearance in the latter part of 1958 was the heaviest in recent years, but it resulted partly from below-average quality of some cuttings and the unusually cold weather and heavy snows in many areas of the country.

## Calf Crop in 1958 Slightly Under 1957

The calf crop in 1958 totaled 40,514,000 head, 1 per cent under the 40,766,000 head in 1957. This was the fourth consecutive year of decrease. The 1959 crop was 5 per cent below the record 1954 crop of 42,601,000 head, but 7 per cent above the 1947-56 average. All regions except the south central and the West showed declines from 1957.

The decrease resulted from a decline in cows and heifers two years old and over—which numbered 46,520,000 head, 2 per cent fewer than a year earlier.

The number of calves born in 1958 expressed as a per cent of the cows and heifers two years old and over, was 87 per cent, 1 per cent above 1957 and the 1947-56 average. (This percentage is not strictly a calving rate but shows the trend in productivity.)

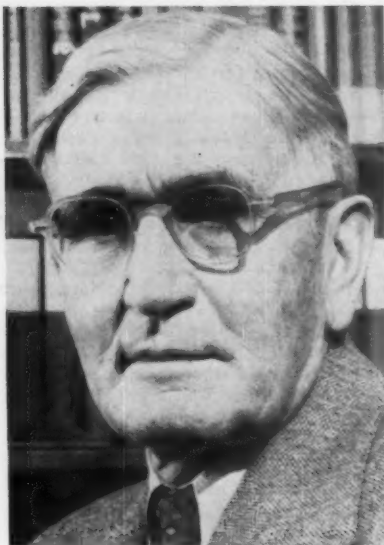
Although it is expected that more than a million more beef calves will be born during 1959, the net increase will probable be about 500,000, due to reduction in dairy cows.

## STATE RANKINGS FOR CATTLE

JAN. 1, 1959 (000 omitted)

ALL CATTLE				BEEF CATTLE			
1959 Rank	1959	1958	Ave. '48-57	1959 Rank	1959	1958	Ave. '48-57
1 Texas	8,510	7,736	8,424	1 Texas	7,402	6,559	6,941
2 Iowa	6,536	6,285	5,533	2 Iowa	4,988	4,726	3,829
3 Nebr.	4,961	4,630	4,428	3 Nebr.	4,364	3,991	3,715
4 Kans.	4,476	3,961	3,952	4 Kans.	3,800	3,274	3,111
5 Wis.	4,254	4,212	4,046	5 Mo.	2,897	2,628	2,214
6 Mo.	4,098	3,866	3,584	6 S. D.	2,893	2,712	2,315
7 Ill.	4,061	4,021	3,601	7 Ill.	2,790	2,732	2,097
8 Calif.	3,978	3,738	3,293	8 Okla.	2,712	2,344	2,125
9 Minn.	3,973	3,973	3,603	9 Calif.	2,479	2,263	1,923
10 S. D.	3,392	3,230	2,888	10 Mont.	2,126	2,100	1,934
11 Okla.	3,313	2,958	2,954	11 Colo.	1,923	1,739	1,690
12 Ohio	2,367	2,344	2,271	12 Minn.	1,672	1,470	1,273
13 Miss.	2,363	2,487	1,934	13 Fla.	1,620	1,555	1,244
14 Mont.	2,269	2,247	2,112	14 Miss.	1,588	1,658	1,093
15 Colo.	2,159	1,979	1,973	15 N. D.	1,338	1,310	1,114
16 N. Y.	2,153	2,175	2,211	16 La.	1,329	1,373	1,127
17 Ind.	2,107	2,172	2,006	17 Ind.	1,318	1,345	1,012
18 Fla.	2,011	1,934	1,533	18 Ala.	1,197	1,197	875
19 Pa.	1,877	1,858	1,818	19 Ore.	1,140	1,063	913
20 N. D.	1,870	1,870	1,736	20 Ohio	1,091	1,029	789
21 Ky.	1,843	1,807	1,705	21 N. M.	1,085	985	1,107
22 Mich.	1,829	1,811	1,864	22 Wyo.	1,079	1,078	1,019
23 Ala.	1,816	1,816	1,553	23 Ga.	1,020	1,040	762
24 La.	1,808	1,883	1,629	24 Idaho	1,007	960	779
25 Tenn.	1,753	1,736	1,644	25 Ky.	969	925	816
26 Ga.	1,515	1,546	1,317	26 Ark.	978	991	741
27 Ore.	1,497	1,412	1,272	27 Ariz.	884	859	840
28 Ark.	1,493	1,523	1,386	28 Tenn.	853	815	704
29 Idaho	1,414	1,360	1,156	29 Va.	766	721	604
30 Va.	1,367	1,327	1,266	30 Wash.	740	669	564
31 Wash.	1,178	1,111	1,006	31 Nev.	559	549	549
32 N. M.	1,162	1,056	1,187	32 Utah	545	533	496
33 Wyo.	1,140	1,140	1,096	33 Mich.	510	479	428
34 N. C.	1,014	984	836	34 Wis.	485	457	381
35 Ariz.	971	943	915	35 N. C.	457	427	287
36 Utah	720	706	665	36 S. C.	378	376	256
37 S. C.	613	626	507	37 Pa.	338	325	303
38 Nev.	597	585	561	38 W. Va.	292	285	275
39 W. Va.	541	546	579	39 Md.	177	158	127
40 Md.	529	514	487	40 N. Y.	135	128	128
41 Vt.	423	432	450	41 Maine	26	25	26
42 N. J.	213	217	221	42 Vt.	19	20	20
43 Maine	192	200	222	43 N. J.	17	20	15
44 Mass.	156	159	184	44 Del.	15	15	10
45 Conn.	155	160	175	45 Mass.	10	10	10
46 N. H.	97	102	116	46 Conn.	10	10	10
47 Del.	65	65	66	47 N. H.	8	8	9
48 R. I.	22	23	26	48 R. I.	1	1	1
96,851 93,350 87,994				64,025 59,937 52,596			

## A. A. SMITH PASSES



A. A. SMITH

A true stalwart of the beef industry died Feb. 7.

Arthur A. Smith, 20th president of the American National, died at Sterling, Colo., at the age of 83 after a long illness.

Always a calm, courtly presiding officer, Art Smith was also known as a scrapper for what was right for the industry. He was president of the American National during the difficult transitional years immediately following World War II, and despite his age he traveled extensively and worked harder than most younger men on behalf of the industry.

Born in Marion County, Ohio, Mr. Smith taught school for five years before moving to Wyoming in 1900 to enter the mercantile business and develop an early interest in cattle. He later homesteaded near American Falls, Idaho.

He moved to Sterling in 1914 to help organize and manage the Haley-Harris Co., the Haley-Smith Cattle Co., and, later, the A. A. Smith Co., with ranching interests in Colorado, Wyoming and California.

Besides his leadership in cattle industry organizations, Mr. Smith served as president of the Colorado Livestock Production Credit Association and as director of two banks. He was active in civic affairs, serving on school and park boards of Sterling, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Elks and Masons.

Survivors include his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Nancy Galmes of California and Mrs. Barbara Guerrero of Connecticut, and two sisters.

# Variability in Cattle Prices

*Editor's Note: "Variability in Cattle Prices" has been prepared for the fact-finding committee of the American National Cattlemen's Association by Harold F. Breimyer, United States Department of Agriculture. The report was independently prepared by the author, and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Department of Agriculture. The following, Part Two, is a continuation from the February Producer. Part Three will follow.*

(Continued from February, 1959)

**CYCLES GETTING SHORTER**—The six major cycles in cattle production since 1880 have many features in common. However, as underlying trends have shifted, the successive cycles have also taken on a different character.

First of all, cycles have been getting shorter. Each of the first two cycles lasted 16 years. The most recent, which ended in January 1958, covered only nine years. Note the following:

Cycle	Length of		
	Upswing	Downswing	Total cycle
1896-1912	8 years	8 years	16 years
1912-1928	6 years	10 years	16 years
1928-1938	6 years	4 years	10 years
1939-1949	7 years	4 years	11 years
1949-1958	7 years	2 years	9 years

Beginning in the late 1920's, the cycles formed along a secular uptrend in cattle numbers that was rising much faster than previously (see Figure 1). Consequently, the downswing of each cycle became shorter relative to the upswing. While the upswings have changed little in length, the downswings have been shortened from the 10 years of 1918-28 to the two years of 1956-58.

But, have the cycles been getting any smoother? Has progress been made in reducing the violence of cyclical swings?

The answer is, a little. The fluctuations in cattle numbers about the trend lines sketched in Figure 1 may be measured by computing the difference between the actual number of cattle on farms each January and the number that would have been "normal" as indicated by the trend line itself. Differences between the actual numbers and "normal" numbers have been totaled and averaged to give us an "index of variation"—in other words, the degree to which the cyclical changes varied from the trend line. The following indexes were obtained in this manner for the cycles from 1896 to date:

CYCLE	INDEX
1896-1912	8.60
1912-1928	9.61
1928-1938	6.17
1938-1949	7.18
1949-1958	5.90

The greatest variation from trend was in 1912-28. The least variation was

found in the last cycle, 1949-58—indicating that inventory numbers now swing faster and not so far as formerly. This, of course, is a change in the right direction—a change toward smoothing out the cycle.

On the other hand, the one-third less variation from trend that was found in this most recent cycle was associated with a cycle that was one-third shorter. It is reasonable to expect that a shorter cycle ought to be a smoother one—ought to have less variation from trend. Thus, relative to length of cycle, it appears that inventory numbers are still fluctuating almost as much as ever. The real job of smoothing out the cycles is still to be accomplished.

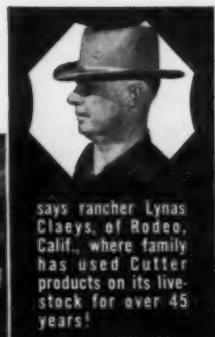
The data charted in Figure 2 show conclusively that the cyclical variations in cattle numbers are confined almost entirely to beef cattle. Even the small earlier cyclical fluctuation in dairy cattle numbers has now virtually disappeared. The trend in milk cattle since about 1946 has been smooth. The dairyman gets by almost Scot-free in any charge of complicity in the cattle cycle.

Absence of sharp cycles in milk cattle has had a moderating effect on the total cattle industry, having helped to prevent even more radical fluctuations for all cattle. But unfortunately, as milk cattle become a smaller part of the total cattle herd, their helpful influence will continue to diminish.

There is evidence that beef cow numbers fluctuate somewhat less from the secular trend line than do the numbers of young beef cattle. This is normal behavior. It results because cattle producers prefer to keep their breeding herds—their foundation stock—as nearly intact as possible during any time of adversity. They usually will adjust the number of their young stock on hand before they will alter the size of their cow herd. Note in Figure 2 the comparative changes in numbers of beef cows and other beef cattle in the downswing in inventories that began in 1945. From 1945 to 1949 the beef cow herd was cut only slightly, but young beef numbers were reduced substantially.

The most marked shift away from this normal behavior occurred in the brief 1956-58 decline in cattle numbers, when beef cow numbers were reduced more than beef young stock. Drouth in plains states forced ranchers to cut back their herds, not only of young stock but of cows as well. Feed remained plentiful in most of the cattle feeding states, and feeding was already in the middle of a fast expansion. More young cattle than cows found a home in the Midwest. Consequently, young beef inventories were reduced very little. This is an example of the special circumstances that characterize any one cattle cycle in its differences from

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others. In this case an underlying trend (rapidly expanding feeding) and special factors (like regional differences in feed supplies) overshadowed normal cyclical behavior.

**CALF KILL CYCLICAL.** Young stock are the heart of the cattle cycle, particularly at its turning point. No other class of cattle lends itself so well to cyclical management. A sizable number of cows must be marketed each year because of sterility, extreme age or for other reasons. Fat steers and heifers must be marketed when ready, a rule that allows only limited range of choice. The handling of young cattle affords the widest flexibility in management.

Usual experience is that when a rising price for cattle or an abundance of feed creates a favorable situation, cattlemen retain young stock longer than in less promising years. The clearest case is the rancher who keeps back heifer calves for breeding that otherwise, and more normally, he would sell as calves. Less dramatic but equally significant is the stretching out of marketing of all young stock. In a favorable year the rancher who ordinarily sells most of his calf crop as calves at the end of the grazing season may choose to hold them for another year, for sale as yearlings. Similarly, the feeder will be in no hurry to push his cattle through the feedlot when he thinks slaughter supplies are on a decline and market prices on an increase.

Because of the way young stock are handled at the turn of the cattle cycle, the number of calves slaughtered each year is highly cyclical. Since 1924, calf slaughter has varied between 24 and 40 per cent of the calf crop (Figure 3). The first years of each inventory buildup were marked by a low rate of calf slaughter. This was true in 1928-33, 1938-43, 1950-52. Similarly, periods of high calf slaughter have coincided with periods of declining cattle numbers. Significantly, calf slaughter dropped off sharply in 1958, precursor to an increase in cattle inventories on Jan. 1, 1959.

Changes in the rate of calf slaughter lead to roughly matching, but inverse, changes in the calf inventory. Lower

than average slaughter means a higher than average inventory at the end of the year, just as higher than average slaughter means a lower inventory. The drop in calf slaughter during 1958 will be the basis for a substantial rise in the number of calves on farms and ranches on Jan. 1, 1959.

A close watch of calf slaughter reports is one of the best ways for cattlemen to get advance indications of cyclical shifts in cattle production long before changes in market supplies of more mature cattle are apparent. The calf that is not slaughtered adds to inventories for later marketing and perhaps for breeding. The calf that is slaughtered contributes less to meat supplies, and sooner—and never goes on to the breeding herd or feedlot.

**COW NUMBERS ALSO CYCLICAL.** Even though most cattle producers would prefer to regulate the size of their cow herds without too much regard for cyclical trends, they usually are caught in the cyclical web. Slaughter of cows, like that of calves, has a cyclical pattern. One reason for this is that beef cows are centered in the range country of the West. This region is particularly sensitive to changing weather and range conditions, and recurrent increases and decreases in cow numbers are inevitable.

Cow slaughter was relatively high in 1947 and 1948, during the liquidation phase following the high point in the cattle cycle in 1945 (Figure 4). With the beginning of a new cattle cycle in 1949 cow slaughter declined sharply and remained low for four years, until 1953. From 1953 through 1957, which was again through the top of a cycle, cow slaughter rose sharply—only to fall again in 1958 as another new cyclical upturn began. This new decline in cow slaughter, just like the similar drop in 1949, is another indication—another warning in advance—of a considerable uptrend in total cattle numbers which can be expected to continue through the next several years.

The same conditions which cause changes in relative calf slaughter also cause changes

in the rate at which cows are culled from breeding herds.

When prices are attractive to producers, and especially when good prices are accompanied by abundant feed, farmers and ranchers tend to reduce their culling rate and hold back cows which more normally would be sold for slaughter. That is, the culling is postponed in the hope that such a cow will produce "one more high-priced calf." Conversely, when prices are discouraging, or feed is short, or both, the culling rate is increased.

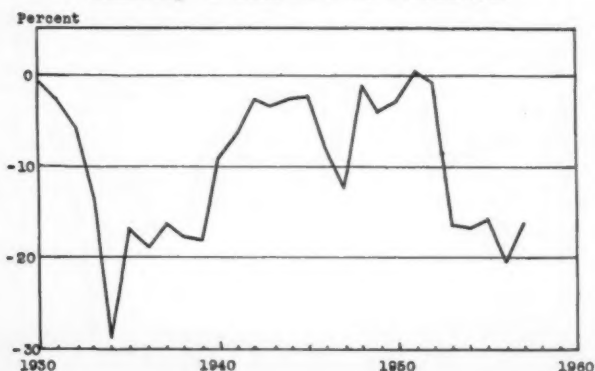
A cow sent to slaughter contributes immediately to beef supplies, and also eliminates her potential as a further producer of calves. A cow held back, when she might have been culled, starts a chain reaction. First, because she was not slaughtered she does not immediately make beef, thus contributing to reduced supplies and still higher prices. Second, any additional calves she produces contribute to a larger cattle inventory and later to increased marketings. Third, the cow also goes to slaughter at a later time, contributing still further to beef supplies in the market at this later date.

Thus relative rates of culling from breeding herds, reflected in cow slaughter figures, forecast changes in the calf crop and in cattle production and marketings in following years. . . . All of which means that changes in cow slaughter are another factor (like changes in calf slaughter) which producers should watch closely, as another advance indicator of cyclical changes in the cattle business.

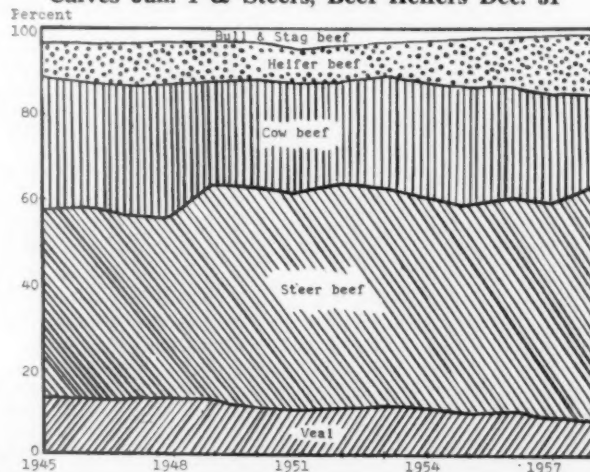
**STEER, HEIFER INVENTORIES ALSO SUBJECT TO CYCLES.** Any period of rising cattle prices, or abundant feed, or both, encourages both feeders and ranchers to hold steers and heifers for maximum gain in weight before they are sold. During any price decline or feed shortage, the reaction is opposite. The incentive then is to sell quickly.

This rule is important, and it often

**Make-up of Beef & Veal Production**



**Percentage Changes Between Inventory of Beef Calves Jan. 1 & Steers, Beef Heifers Dec. 31**



is overlooked by observers of the cattle cycle. Figure 5 provides the evidence. It shows the percentage difference between the number of beef calves on farms Jan. 1 and the number of steers and beef heifers Dec. 31. When it appears profitable to retain slaughter animals a longer time, the steer-heifer inventory Dec. 31 may be as large as the calf inventory at the beginning of the year. (The closing inventory can be so large despite slaughter and death loss because it includes some two-year-old steers in addition to yearlings.) When the economic outlook is less promising the closing inventory is 10 to 20 per cent less than the beginning inventory of calves. For several years beginning in 1934, again in 1946 and 1947, and once more in several years beginning in 1953, the closing inventory showed sizable reductions. Closing inventories were well maintained in expansion periods of the cycles in the early 1930's, the early 1940's, and the early 1950's.

Years ago, heifer slaughter was regarded as highly cyclical. Now it is much less so. The change has resulted from the increase in beef cattle versus dairy cattle in the national cattle herd and from the increase in feeding of beef-type heifers. Trends in total heifer slaughter now depend more than formerly on the economic situation in cattle feeding, and are much less exclusively determined by shifts in plans for keeping heifers for breeding. Since beef cows are now about 54 per cent of all cows (beef and dairy) versus only 30 per cent as recently as 1940, many more beef heifers are available, above replacement needs, for feeding or for slaughter as calves. Under favorable conditions for feeding they go to the feedlot.

**CYCLES IN MAKE-UP OF CATTLE SLAUGHTER AND BEEF PRODUCTION.** Often a picture can be viewed from more than one direction. The cycle in cattle inventory numbers and slaughter can be described also in terms of the make-up of the annual slaughter and of the beef produced.

As was noted above, an upturn in cattle numbers is brought about partly by slowing down the marketing rate for all cattle, but much more by withdrawing cows and calves from slaughter. Consequently, during the upturn stage of the cycle, cows and calves are a smaller part of the total slaughter than usual. Similarly, cow beef, veal and calf "beef" are a smaller part of total beef output.

The table below presents data on the composition of inspected slaughter of cattle (calves are excluded) in several recent periods of alternate reduction and increase in the number of cattle on farms and ranches. (See Page 16).

Cow slaughter was definitely a smaller part of total slaughter in the two periods of inventory expansion than in the periods of inventory reduction. Steer slaughter, which is relatively more constant from year to year,

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### Growers say—"Best forage crop we've ever raised"

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Colorado test produced 2 tons of dehydrated pellets per acre (equivalent of 12 tons green weight) within 56 days from planting date. Pellets tested 14.1% protein and 172,000 units of Vitamin A per lb. Stockmen report grazing 2 to 5 head per acre with gains of 2 lbs. per head per day or better.

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Grown from high-sugar, high-protein imported New Zealand parent stock. Plant from April to July depending on climate. Order now—heavy demand for Soil Bank seeding in Texas and New Mexico may cause early sell-out, so don't wait.

**Special 5-Acre Test Offer**, with Grower's Bulletin, (10 lbs.). Postpd. in U.S. \$12.95

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is therefore more important in the total slaughter during expansion of inventories than during reduction.

Heifer slaughter, like cow slaughter, fell off as a percent of the total in 1949-52. It did not do so in 1958, reflecting the fast expansion in heifer feeding.

The relative decline in bull slaughter during the last 10 years—quite independent of cycles—is due largely to the increasing use of artificial insemination in dairy herds.

Data on the types of beef produced tell the same story (Figure 6). Of special interest is the narrowed proportion of cow beef and the larger share which steer beef was of the total in such years as 1949 and 1958. Both were years when cattle herds began to expand and cows were being held back.

Note further, the trend since 1945 toward more steer and heifer beef and relatively less cow beef, bull beef and veal. This reflects the rise in cattle feeding in recent years, and the adjustment to the change in the type of beef demanded by large-scale supermarket retailers.

Cyclical fluctuations in the beef supply have an impact on meat packers, processors and consumers. Most beef sold as fresh cuts at retail is steer or heifer beef. The output of this type of beef is more stable through the whole of a cycle than is the output of cow beef. Moreover, consumers find it possible to adjust without excessive difficulty to such variations as do occur in the supply of steer and heifer beef. They generally can shift to other fresh meats. Hence, cyclical variations in prices of steer and heifer beef, while substantial, are seldom extreme.

Cow beef goes chiefly into processed meats, including hamburger, frankfurters, bologna and other processed items. Basic demand on these products is fairly stable. However, there is an additional demand for these products whenever the price of all beef rises. Consumers facing an increasing price for fresh cuts of beef tend to shift to hamburger and other lower priced beef. Thus the over-all demand for products of cow beef increases at the very time in the cycle when the supply of cow beef is reduced. One result is that the price of hamburger and other less expensive beef rises more than steer and heifer beef during the cyclical decrease in total beef supply. Another result is that in a year such as 1958 when the slaughter of cows is sharply reduced, meat processors search the world for sources of supply of cow beef to meet their demand for grinding and sausage beef.

## The MARKET Picture

Grainfed cattle prices broke rather sharply during February as the Lenten season got under way, although some indications toward a leveling off appeared late in the month.

In addition to the typical seasonal slowness often prevailing during this period, competition for the consumer dollar from other meat items was an important factor.

Pork production was consistently building up with current weekly slaughter of hogs running 24 per cent above a year ago and the feeding to heavier weights pushing the tonnage increase up to 28 per cent above last year. Lamb slaughter also was up some 9 per cent and heavier weights pushed the tonnage gain to nearly 12 per cent over a year ago.

At the same time, cattle slaughter was running as much as 5 to 7 per cent below a year ago. Here, again, however, heavier weights made up for the reduction to furnish about an equal amount of beef tonnage as a year ago.

Some developments in fat cattle trade tended to show that cattle feeders in general were not overstaying the market with their cattle. All through the winter feeding season there has been a tendency to move cattle slightly earlier than normal. This, together with the recent price break of \$1 to \$2 which caused some feeders to become nervous and move cattle prematurely, has resulted in a high percentage of cattle being marketed lacking 30 to 60 days in finish.

As a result, the recent tendency has been toward a wider price spread, with most downward price pressure on the shortfeds. The same condition has developed in dressed beef trade, where good grade beef is now selling as much as \$3 or more under choice, in contrast to a few weeks ago when there was scarcely more than \$1 per cwt. spread between good and choice of the same carcass weights. Thus, the normal tendency for price spreads to be wide in the fall and narrow down in the spring has not been followed this year.

If marketing intentions as shown in the January cattle feeding survey are followed, it is reasonable to assume that March marketings will be less than those of January or February. If such a pattern follows through, March prices should show more stability than January or February, not overlooking

the weakening influence of an abundance of pork and lamb.

Total cattle and calves on farms Jan. 1, as reported by the Crop Reporting Board, was up about 4 per cent, to a total of some 96,851,000 head. Most of the increase was in the western Corn Belt, the southern plains states and the West. Beef cows increased by 5 per cent and calf numbers were reported the largest on record. The total inventory, however, was only slightly above the previous record of Jan. 1, 1956. Milk cows and heifers declined 3 per cent to drop to the lowest levels since 1921. Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico during the past year jumped from 736,000 to 1,141,000 head.

Declines in grainfed cattle spread to stocker and feeder trade, although weight and flesh still was an important price determining factor. Some sales of light stocker type cattle were weak to 50 cents lower, others near steady. Fleishy feeder cattle with weight were fully 50 cents to \$1 lower. As often happens in a declining market, prices on future contracts showed more stability than for immediate delivery, some additional transactions being reported for next fall delivery at comparatively strong prices.

Range and feed conditions over the western states were generally below a year ago but well above average in most areas. In the northern sections of the West, cold temperatures and snow cover have resulted in considerable supplemental feeding, while in the southern areas either lack of moisture or sharp freezes have retarded feed growth. However, most cattle are wintering in average condition or better and prospects are favorable for a relatively high percentage calf crop.

**Price round-up:** Late in February, good and choice fed steers sold from \$24 to \$26.50, numerous sales \$25.50 up, with choice steers in a limited way making \$26.75 to \$27.50, high choice and prime at some river markets \$28 to \$29.50 and up to \$31 at Chicago. Weights above 1,300 pounds were generally discounted 50 cents to \$1 below lighter cattle, some weighing above 1,450 pounds as much as \$2 and \$3. Good and choice heifers ranged from \$24 to \$26.50, some river markets getting \$27 to \$28, with choice and prime heifers and mixed yearlings in a limited way making \$29 to \$29.50.

Beef cows continued to hold at a price range of \$18 to \$20, numerous sales at \$18.50 to \$19.50, occasional loads of grainfed cows up to \$21. Canners and cutters ranged \$15 to \$18, strongweight cutters in good demand upward to \$19, as most packers were unable to obtain a sufficient supply of boning beef to satisfy demand.

Good and choice stock steers scaling 525 to 650 pounds for current delivery sold from \$27 to \$30, with medium and good kinds \$25 to \$26.50. Good and choice heifers 550 to 650 pounds brought \$25.50 to \$27.50, mostly \$26 to \$27 for immediate delivery. Good and choice feeder steers 750 pounds upward sold at

Composition of Cattle Slaughter in Ups & Downs

Period	Stage of inventory cycle	Percent of inspected slaughter			
		Cows	Heifers	Steers	Bulls
1946-48	Reduction	39.0	11.9	45.4	3.7
1949-52	Expansion	32.2	10.7	53.3	3.8
1954-56	Reduction	33.9	13.8	50.1	2.2
1958	Expansion	26.1	16.8	55.4	1.7



\$24 to \$27, mostly \$25 to \$26, medium and good kinds \$22 to \$23.50. On current delivery, good and choice feeder steer calves brought \$33 to \$39, mostly \$35 to \$37.

Good and choice heifer calves \$28 to \$35.50, latter price for weights under 400 pounds. Good stock cows, some with calves on the ground, \$250 to \$275, some choice cow and calf pairs up to \$300. Common to medium stock cows \$165 to \$225 per head.

For future delivery, good and choice light yearling steers for spring delivery \$29 to \$35 in the southern plains, weighing from 500 to 600 pounds, same kind of heifers \$27.50 to \$34. Good and choice steer calves both for spring and fall delivery \$32 to \$35, and \$30 to \$33 for heifer calves.

A few contracts for fall delivery on yearling steers both in the southern plains and the northern plains. Good and choice 600-pound yearling steers at \$30, good and choice 700 to 750-pound weights \$25.75 to \$26.50, latter price taking a big string of over 2,000 head in Montana.—C.W.

## Averaging of Income

Our present federal income tax laws penalize cattlemen, farmers and other taxpayers whose annual incomes markedly fluctuate. This discrimination results from the operation of our progressive tax rate structure. It is readily apparent when one compares the federal income taxes of a cattleman or farmer with those of a salaried taxpayer for a given period of years, both classes of taxpayer having the same total taxable income for such period. In practically every case, the salaried taxpayer's total income taxes are less.

For example, a farmer and his wife who file a joint return and receive \$4,000 in 1959 and \$12,000 in 1960 would pay nearly 5 per cent more total taxes than a salaried taxpayer and his wife who receive \$8,000 salary in each of the same two years.

Yet, generally, it is the farmer or cattleman who, because of the special risks and uncertainties inherent in his occupation, deserves and needs the protection of more equitable tax treatment. Therefore it seems clear that Congress should enact legislation that will remedy this situation.

A law which would permit cattlemen, farmers and other similarly situated taxpayers to average this total taxable income for a given number of years over such period and pay taxes accordingly, would seem to be the most desirable solution. There are at least three noteworthy formulas, the full details of which shall be omitted, that would, if enacted into legislation, provide significant relief.

1. The first is embodied in the income tax laws of Canada. It allows farmers and fishermen to average their total taxable income for a five-year period and pay a tax for that period equal to the sum of the taxes on the average taxable income of each of the five

years. This formula preserves for such taxpayers the full benefits of their personal exemptions and allowable deductions in lean or loss years.

3. The second is incorporated in identical bills introduced in Congress at its last session by Representatives Curtis of Missouri and Teague of California. The Curtis-Teague bills would permit a taxpayer to average over a two-year period that portion of the taxable income of any given year which exceeds 50 per cent of the taxable income of the immediately preceding year. The amount of such excess is then divided equally between the year of receipt and the immediately preceding year and is taxed at the dates applicable to those years.

3. The third formula appears in a plan proposed by J. S. Seidman, a noted New York certified public accountant. It would permit a taxpayer to average over a seven-year period the taxable income of any given year which exceeds the average taxable income of the six preceding years. The tax for the particular year involved is then figured on that basis of the average taxable income for all seven years.

However, neither the Curtis nor the Seidman formulas would preserve the benefits of personal exemptions and allowable deductions in lean or loss years as does the Canadian formula.

Of the three formulas, the Canadian has the broadest application and greatest tax-saving potential. Nevertheless, the more modest Curtis-Teague and Seidman formulas would provide significant relief in those cases where the need is most acute: the receipt of an unusually large amount of taxable income in a single tax year. The Curtis-Teague bills have the further advantage of having been considered by Congress. Their enactment could well be the first step toward a general averaging formula of the Canadian vintage.

Therefore, because they would seem to represent a promising beginning in the battle to end the federal income tax discrimination against cattlemen, farmers and other taxpayers with fluctuating incomes, these bills merit the active support of all such persons if they are reintroduced in the present session of Congress.

A more complete report describing the details of the above plans is available. Write to American Cattle Producer, 801 East 17th Ave., Denver 18, Colo.—By Stephen H. Hart, Claude M. Maer and H. Richard Beresford, Attorneys for the National Live Stock Tax Committee.

## New Dates Set by ICC On Westbound Rate Case

New dates set by the Interstate Commerce Commission for Denver and Portland, Oregon, on hearings on Investigation and Suspension Docket 7068 regarding lower westbound railroad rates on fresh meats and packinghouse products are Mar. 24-27 in Denver and Mar. 30-Apr. 2 in Portland.

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Past President William B. Wright, Deeth, Nev., here presents a gold tie clasp to Russell Thorp, Cheyenne, Wyo., for outstanding service to the industry. Mr. Thorp probably holds the record for attending the most American National conventions.



Anders Mathers, West Liberty, Ia., cattle feeder, and Dr. C. R. Watson, Mitchell, Nebr., in headquarters lobby. Thirteen hundred cattlemen and their wives registered at the convention.



Taking it easy in the lobby: From left, Frank Chambers, Canadian, Tex.; Wiley Reynolds, Pampa, Tex.; E. S. F. Brainard, Canadian, Tex. (a new second vice-president); Lucius Long, Meers, Okla., and J. B. Smith, Pawhuska, Okla. (immediate past second vice-president).



The Alabama delegation attending the Omaha convention included, from left, Don Smith, Prattville; Ham Wilson, Montgomery; Edward Wadsworth, Prattville; Gene Garrett, Uriah; John Armstrong, Autauga County; Gordon Preuit, Leighton, and Arthur Tonsmeire, Jr., Mobile.

## MEETING NOTES

### ARIZONA

Generally good conditions headed by new moisture made for high spirits among more than 450 persons attending the 55th annual convention of the **Arizona Cattle Growers** at Yuma last month. Earl Platt of the St. Johns area stepped into the president's post from the vice-presidency when President Bud Webb turned down a second term. Earl Horrell of Globe was named first vice-president and Earnest Browning of Willcox replaced Mr. Horrell in the second vice-presidential spot. Long-time secretary of the group is Mrs. J. M. Keith of Phoenix.

Speakers included the president of the American National, G. R. Milburn of Grassrange, Mont., who discussed some of the important resolutions adopted by cattlemen's organizations.

The cattle growers called for expansion of USDA reports and services to include additional estimates of cattle on feed, and for a more intensified analysis of grazing allotments; opposed issuance by the Forest Service of temporary or permanent grazing permits to be superimposed on existing permits; opposed proposals for a national wilderness bill.

They wanted, further, continued work on eradication of noxious plants; allowance for voluntary deductions for support of beef promotion; legislation to require federal agencies to comply with state water laws and rights. They asked Congress for a law giving full compensation for damages suffered by lessee, permittee or licensee when federal lands are disposed of for government purposes or to individuals; endorsed an increase in state sales tax for growing school needs, and establishment of a forest fund to assist in appeal cases above the regional level. The resolutions protested use of unnecessary lands and fencing which would result from unduly wide separation of superhighways.

### COLORADO

Lee Dalton of Eaton was named to head the **Colorado Cattle Feeders Association**.

Among resolutions adopted were these: a request for permanent continuation of USDA's range sales report; a recommendation for reduction in freight rates on live cattle to the West Coast; a recommendation for expansion of cattle-on-feed reports and a request that members participate in submitting data for use in the reports; an expression of appreciation to the meat grading branch, USDA, for efforts to improve grading; approval of completion of the area brucellosis testing program, and approval of calfhood vaccination for brucellosis as a method of recertification.

The **Rio Blanco Stockholders Association** held its annual meeting in

Meeker, Colo., on Feb. 28. Roy Lilley reported on American National activities; Jack Wadlow, second vice-president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, reviewed state legislation, and Si Berthelson, second vice-president of the Rio Blanco group, reported on the meeting of the National Brucellosis Committee in Chicago recently. The group went on record opposing the use of current sales in establishing real estate values for taxation. They also opposed eminent domain legislation allowing condemnation of private land to provide access to public land. It seemed inconceivable that if only a fourth of the land in Rio Blanco County was deeded, the other three-fourths could be inaccessible.

## LOUISIANA

Resolutions adopted by the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association meeting in Lafayette in early February included:

Opposition to government subsidies in the production of meat animals; recommendation that animals needed for research purposes in the state be purchased from Louisiana producers. Whenever possible; request that every effort be made toward immediate trial of cattle thieves and that they be required to serve out their sentences.

Resolutions further—

Expressed appreciation to the Louisiana CowBelles for their good work and strong support; asked for better provisions in the disposal of funds received from estray animals; requested the state department of agriculture to set up bull testing units (for fertility) to be available to ranchers; opposed any increase in federal gasoline taxes; requested adequate funds for the USDA for meat inspection.

Asked that official vaccination of beef females be accepted as an alternate in recertification for brucellosis; called for stricter enforcement of laws on livestock entering the state; urged more intense study of anaplasmosis; sought additional funds in brucellosis eradication work for the state; asked each parish to adopt the area testing approach to the brucellosis eradication campaign as soon as possible.

## MISSISSIPPI

Frank Brumfield of Inverness was elected president of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association in February at Jackson. He succeeds C. D. Maddox of West. Don Bartlett of Como is the new vice-president. Paul F. Newell of State College is executive secretary, and E. F. Grissom of State College is assistant secretary.

Resolutions adopted urged economy in government; opposed production allotments and price supports on cattle; deplored the "unreasonable discrimination against cattlemen of the Southwest, in the freight rates and transit privileges set-up. The association undertook a program, "until permissive legislation has been enacted by our state legislature and by Congress," of beef promo-



Leather plaques like this were presented by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association to Roy P. Stewart and Dr. Al Darlow for outstanding contribution to Oklahoma's beef cattle industry. The plaques represent part of the association's drive to encourage use of more leather.

Current campaigns of many cattle associations aims at getting more use of hides for upholstery in cars. A letter by American National President G. R. Milburn to manufacturers has elicited the typical excuse that competition forces use of substitutes. However, many models are available with leather upholstery.



Tennessee Livestock Association officers for 1959 include (front row, from left): Wallace Darden, president; B. F. Rogers, vice-president; (back) Crum Harper, treasurer, and W. T. Tyrrell, secretary. The group met in Nashville Feb. 11-12.



Alabama Cattlemen's Association officers for 1959 include, from left, Ham Wilson, executive secretary, Montgomery; Arthur Tonsmiere, Mobile, president; Edward Wadsworth, Prattville, first vice-president; Richard Arrington, Rover, treasurer. J. E. Horton, Jr., Madison, second vice-president, was absent for the picture.

Two thousand cattlemen attended the recent convention of the group, and 1,350 people attended the annual banquet—the largest seated banquet ever held in Alabama.



One hundred fifty-four boys from 28 counties in Alabama attended their meeting at the Alabama Cattlemen's Association convention in Montgomery recently. Officers of the Junior association include, from left, Johnny Kilgore, president; Joe Billings, first vice-president; Mike Newman, second vice-president; Larry Wheeler, third vice-president; Howard Walthall, secretary, and Eddie Cain, treasurer.



## ANNUAL STATE SECRETARIES BREAKFAST AT OMAHA

Frank Sibert, Sandhills Cattle Assn., Nebr.; Leon Weeks, Idaho; Mrs. J. M. Keith, Ariz.; George Reid, Okla.; N. J. Bock, Minneapolis, (magazine advertising representative); Jack McCulloh, S. D.; George N. Tucker, Calif. Cattle Feeders.



J. Edgar Dick, Calif.; E. H. "Ham" Wilson, Ala.; David G. Rice, Jr., Colo.; A. P. Parham, La.; David O. Appleton, editor, American Cattle Producer; Mrs. Myrtle Black and Miss Bernadine Stecklein of ANCA staff.



Fred Harris, Nev.; Jim Orton, editor Kansas Stockman; Clair Michels, N. D.; Dave Foster, Wash.; Roy Lilley, Assistant ANCA Secretary; Horace Henning, N. M.



Sue Wittstruck and Margarete Tschauder, ANCA staff; Radford S. Hall, ANCA Secretary; Ralph Miracle, Mont.; Robert Hanesworth, Wyo.; Robert Howard, Nebr.



tion in the state, with cattlemen voluntarily contributing 10 cents per head.

The cattlemen asked for expanded animal husbandry research at the Mississippi State University, urged more research on anaplasmosis and foot rot and on grasses and forage, and called for better federal market reporting on cattle in the Southwest.

A caution against too rapid expansion of cattle numbers in view of current favorable prices was voiced by the retiring president, and by Harold F. Breimyer of the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington, D. C. "The future is fairly bright, yet not quite so bright as the recent rise in prices might lead one to think," Mr. Breimyer stated. "I do not look for the boom prices we had in 1951, and I do expect some price decline after another year or two," he continued. "But unless the industry goes crazy in its expansion, the price adjustment need not be too severe.

Jack Milburn, president of the American National, urged aggressive promotion and consumer education on the qualities of beef. "We must continue to work for a change in federal laws which will permit us to make voluntary deductions on cattle sales in an efficient manner," he said.

### CORN BELT

The Corn Belt Livestock Feeders association, meeting in St. Louis, Mo., rejected suggestions that imports of live cattle to the U. S. be curtailed or reduced.

John H. Litzelman, of Vermillion, S. D., was re-elected president. Executive secretary-treasurer is Don Magdanz, Omaha, Nebr.

The feeders called for greater economy in government; opposed decentralization of marketing; voted against the closed shop and secondary boycotts; recommended a proper ratio in freight

rates between livestock and dressed meat from the Midwest, and opposed cancellation of trailer-car privileges; asked that all eligible markets be posted under the P&S Act.

Dangers of vertical integration were cited, as were those of excessive increases in feeder cattle production. Livestock feeders were urged to maintain maximum bargaining power through competitive selling.

Greater activity was voted in the field of public relations for the industry, and in disease and pest control work; the entire industry was urged to try for more orderly marketing of livestock; promotion of greater use of leather was requested. Under consideration, pending approval from affiliated organizations, is a change of name to the "National Associations of Livestock Feeders."

Other action called for continuation of grading problem studies.

## GENERAL COUNCIL'S BREAKFAST



G. R. "Jack" Milburn, ANCA president; G. J. McGinley, Nebr.; G. B. Wilson, Ida.; M. D. "Bud" Webb, Ariz.; W. I. Driggers, N. M.; Norman Moser, Texas; Hugh Colton, Utah.



W. I. Brian, La.; Arthur Tonsmeire, Jr., Ala., (past president); Norman Brown, Nev.; Norman Winslow, N. C.; William Landauer, N. Y.; David O. Beresford, N. Y. (vice-president), Brunel Christensen, Calif.



Orville B. Burtis, Kans.; R. E. "Dick" Jones, Colo.; (identification missing); Bryan Patrick, Wyo.; Gene Etchart, Mont.; Louis Beckwith, S. D.



D. C. Fitzgerald, Okla.; Wallace Darden, Tenn.; Leonard Davis, N. D.; Edward Francisco, Wash.; Kent Magruder, Ore.

### MONTANA

Members of the Montana Stockgrowers Association will hold their 75th annual convention in Miles City, where their organization was formed in 1884. The diamond jubilee meeting will be held May 20-23 and the gathering of stockmen will duplicate as nearly as possible styles and appearances of a western community of 1884. As an example—no autos or trucks will be allowed on Main Street of the 10,000-person city for the four-day celebration, and parking meters will be transformed into hitching posts.

### NEW YORK

The New York Beef Cattlemen's Association met Feb. 7 at Canandaigua and there elected David O. Beresford, Albany County cattle feeder, president.



M. D. Lacy

Thomas Forrestel was named vice-president, and M. D. Lacy of Ithaca was re-elected secretary-treasurer. The major address was delivered by Radford Hall of Denver, late executive secretary of the American National Cattlemen's Association; and the members adopted a number of resolutions, including: endorsement of performance testing; a request for continuation of the work of the American National's fact-finding committee; recommendations that federal land acquisition laws be amended to provide fair prices and resettlement and severance costs.

The New York organization favored a law requiring labeling of contents of shoes; urged auto makers to use leather in upholstery; called for standards in production of imported beef to be the same as in the U. S. The cattlemen opposed establishment of a wilderness preservation system or any regulations not in accord with the multiple-use principle; requested federal funds for research into leptospirosis; urged that livestock disease research be increased to "a just and needed level."

A paid-up membership of over 200 names was reported at adjournment.

### NORTH CAROLINA

C. Y. "Jack" Tilson, Durham, was named president of the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association at its 8th annual meeting in late January in Raleigh. He succeeded Norman J. Winslow, Washington, N. C. Secretary-treasurer is M. Edmund Aycok, Raleigh.

## TENNESSEE

A featured speaker at the fifth annual convention of the Tennessee Livestock Association, meeting in Nashville Feb. 11 and 12, was Radford Hall, who passed away shortly after his return to Denver from the meeting. The Tennessee stockmen re-elected all their officers, which included: Wallace Darden, Springfield, president; B. F. Rogers, Centerville, vice-president; Crum Harper, Rockford, treasurer; and William P. Tyrrell, Knoxville, secretary.

## TEXAS

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, majority leader of the U. S. Senate, will address the 82nd annual convention of the **Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association** at Dallas, Mar. 23-25. Other headline speakers include Dr. Herrell DeGraff, research director of the American National's fact-finding committee, and Dr. O. D. Butler, head of the animal husbandry department at Texas A.&M.

The **Coastal Cattle Association** has re-elected its present officers for another year. Meeting at Beaumont, Tex., recently, the members named A. H. Heiner of Beaumont to his sixth term as president; George Bauer of Nome first vice-president; W. P. H. McFaddin, second vice-president; J. Howard Stagg, secretary; Paul Bullington treasurer. The three last named officers are all of Beaumont. The group voted to participate in a program of testing herd bulls for fertility. A discussion covered proposed action against the imported fire ant.

## NATIONAL

In the 94th annual convention of the **National Wool Growers Association** at Portland, Ore., early last month, Harold Josendahl of Casper, Wyo., was elected president, to succeed Don Clyde of Heber City, Utah. Edwin Marsh of Salt Lake City was renamed executive secretary, and Angus McIntosh of Las Animas, Colo., a vice-president. Resolutions urged discontinuance of federal grading of lamb; asked the agriculture secretary and Tariff Commission to take steps to limit or prohibit imports of lamb, and recommended that tariffs on lamb and mutton be increased and quotas be set up. The federal lands committee opposed any wilderness bill proposals. The transportation committee called for equal treatment on freight rates for fresh meat and packinghouse products. The association reiterated its opposition to reciprocal trade agreements; protested closing of any livestock driveways by the Forest Service or other government agencies.

## AMERICAN NATIONAL DATES

Dates for the 1960 convention of the American National Cattlemen's Association at Dallas, Texas, are Jan. 28-30—Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Headquarters hotel and reservation information will be announced later.

# THE PUBLIC . . . AND YOU

BY  
LYLE LIGGETT

"Community service." Those two words are almost synonymous with public relations for many groups and industries.

It is axiomatic that the people who perform a service for society must have concern and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of society.

And, surely, the cattle industry is made up of individuals who have this ingrained desire to be of service to their neighbors and fellow men. Perhaps, however, we have not shown it enough. Perhaps our very way-of-life, our isolation, has handicapped us in demonstrating to our "city cousins" that we do do our share—and more—in developing a better way of life for all persons.

An outstanding example of community service comes this month from the northwest corner of California, the cow-country of Modoc, far from the teeming mobs of the coastal cities.

This somewhat bleak area offered little in community recreation, although its back country was an annual mecca for tourists and hunters from hundreds of miles away. A swimming pool in Alturas was needed. Little had been done about it; a modern swimming pool is a financial project not to be considered lightly.

Then the Modoc County Cattlemen's Association, under leadership of well-known cowman John Weber, decided to kick off a fund campaign right in the county. No dependence on "state aid," no looking for someone else to solve the problem for the Alturas kids.

A **livestock auction** was arranged, with all services and animals donated. Cattlemen in each area of the county were designated to gather and deliver the stock—even ducks and geese were included in the community event.

Nearly \$3,000 was raised in one day . . . and that was only the beginning of what the cattlemen did toward building a swimming pool for the kids of their community.

But there is an "inside story" to this successful auction. Several years ago, the cattlemen had actively opposed a property tax for the building of a swimming pool. The reaction from their city neighbors of the county—and elsewhere—was not good. True, few of those standing to benefit considered the tax burden or the problems of land ownership . . . they just damned the cowmen.

Today, the cattle industry of Modoc County has demonstrated its good faith. And few persons in Modoc County need any more example that there are several ways to accomplish a worthwhile objective besides taxation.

## WASHINGTON REPORT

(Continued from Page 8)

Washington, D. C. There are indications, he said, that action may be deferred until after the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission reports next year.

**SHOE LABELING BILL**—A bill (HR 1320) to require labeling of the contents of shoes has been introduced by Congressman Porter of Oregon. Hearings will be held on the bill, but not soon, Mr. Hall said.

**JAPANESE HIDE TRADE**—It was recalled that the American National cooperated with the Western States Meat Packers, the National Independent Meat Packers and the National Hide Association in sending a team of experts to Japan to study ways of increasing hide trade there. The report of the team criticized quality and methods of shipping. Mr. Hall said that beginning Apr. 1 hides exported to Japan would be on a "select" basis, which will assure Japanese buyers of much better quality.

**P&SY MARKET POSTING**—The P&SY Administration expects to post some 500 additional markets this year, which would mean almost double the number now posted and under active government supervision. This will be a big step, Mr. Hall said, but more needs to be done along this line.

**SELF-EMPLOYED PENSIONS**—The bill to allow self-employed persons to deduct up to \$2,500 of income a year to set aside tax-free for retirement for a maximum of \$50,000 over 20 years has been reintroduced.

**HUMANE SLAUGHTER**—Mr. Hall said it seemed to him that any packer, no matter how small, could afford to comply with the new requirements on "humane slaughter" without unreasonable expense but even a possible saving through lessening of injuries to personnel and bruising damage to carcasses. An advisory group, of which former American National president Don Collins of Kit Carson, Colo., was a member, had met with Secretary Benson before announcement of methods. (Three methods of handling and slaughtering were designated: Chemical—use of carbon dioxide gas for sheep and swine; mechanical—use of captive bolt stunners or gunshot on sheep, swine, goats, calves, cattle, horses and mules; and electrical—stunning of swine, sheep, calves and cattle with electric current.)

**THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.** This eight-man committee will go to Washington, D. C., in mid-April to look further into some of the above matters. Committee members are Fred Dressler, Nev., chairman; J. C. Wetzler, Arizona; Louie Horrell, Arizona; Cushman Radebaugh, Florida; Robert Lister, Oregon; Ernest Ham, South Dakota, with Stephen Hart, Denver, and F. G. Montague, Fort Worth, counsels. President G. R. Milburn and David Appleton, acting secretary, will go with the group.





## RE- SEARCH

### BLOOD CLOTTING

Recent experiments at South Dakota State College show that alfalfa hay apparently does not affect the blood clotting time of cattle wintered on it. In the tests, pens of steer calves were fed hay that contained as much as 75 per cent alfalfa, and others were fed lesser amounts down to where some received only prairie hay. Clotting time was determined by placing blood from each animal in a thin tube and breaking off short portions at regular intervals until clotted blood extended between the pieces. No conclusive difference was found among the several groups of steers. Some of the calves used in the test were also dehorned, but even then the type of hay they were fed did not appear to influence the bleeding time. Animal Husbandryman L. B. Embrey emphasizes, however, that, when sweet-clover is fed as moldy hay or silage, it can prolong the bleeding time of cattle.

### NEW RABIES VACCINE

Tests on 1,000 volunteers indicate the possibility of successful, safe immunization against rabies with a vaccine developed in egg embryos, according to Dr. C. L. Campbell of American Cyanamid Company. Currently-used anti-rabies vaccines are cultured in nerve or brain tissues, and a painful post-vaccinal reaction sometimes results. The egg-embryo vaccine for humans would be most useful among persons in occupations which expose them to risk of the disease and to whom immunization against it is routine, such as veterinarians, cave explorers (who come in contact with bats), wildlife personnel, etc.

### GOOD MOUNTAIN MEADOWS

Improved management of mountain meadows can mean big gains in beef cattle production efficiency, judging from results of several years of state-USDA research in Colorado.

Studies were mainly concerned with forage-crop harvest time, use of irrigation water, and fertilization. Researchers compared skillful use of these combined practices with their ordinary use. Skillful use (1) produced market-weight beef animals faster, (2) cut forage intake per pound of beef produced, (3) took less water to produce a pound of forage, (4) increased yields of harvested forage per acre, and (5) increased crude protein content of the forage.

Cattle under good test practices produced a pound of beef on about 13 pounds of forage, compared with 20 pounds under normal conditions.

Differences between good and poor

harvest management were reflected in forage quality. Yields from two test cuttings (one early) were generally equal in tonnage to the entire yield of a late cutting. But early-cut plus second-cut forage averaged more than 12 per cent crude protein—50 per cent more than the late cut. In both cases, about 60 per cent was grazed, the rest harvested and fed as hay.

Good water management plus early harvest produced a ton of forage with only 9.5 inches of water per acre. Under usual conditions of water management and late harvest, up to 136 inches per acre are required.

About 135 gallons of water were needed under good water management to produce a pound of hay, and 1,625 gallons for a pound of beef. This compares to 2,000 gallons normally used for a pound of hay, 26,000 gallons for a pound of beef.

The combination of early harvest, nitrogen application, and good irrigation increased hay yield, crude protein, and crude protein per acre. Adding nitrogen produced 12,000 pounds of grass, and 7,500 pounds of grass-legume mixture per acre during a 90-day growing season.



### RUMEN STUDY

Basic studies to learn more about factors affecting metabolism of the rumen is a top research need, according to USDA's feed and forage research and marketing advisory committee. The forage-rumen complex is extremely important to the proper nutrition of livestock, committee members observed. Functions of rumen micro-organisms in breaking down feed constituents should be studied, as well as the effects of feed itself—how it is processed, its chemical make-up, and physical condition—on rumen metabolism.

The committee also said that breeding studies for improved legumes and grasses would benefit from (1) better breeding techniques, (2) faster methods for screening seed and forage plants to determine production potential, (3) discovery of improved disease and insect resistance, and (4) analysis of organic compounds in forages. Members of the committee include Wayne Rogler, rancher, Matfield Green, Kans.

### PEANUT SHELL RATION

Peanut hulls, a troublesome, mountainous by-product of the peanut industry, can be profitably used in rations for beef cattle, according to the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. It was found that when properly supplemented, peanut hulls similar to those used in the tests are a satisfactory roughage for beef cattle if they constitute not more than 60 per cent of the total ration.

### GROWTH, GRUB STUDY

American Cyanamid Company this year is making 32 grants-in-aid to agricultural college experiment stations for research, this year placing major emphasis on studies to improve growth efficiency and productivity. Cattle grubs will also be studied.

### SANDHILL SHORTS

Up to date this has not been an especially hard winter in the Sandhills. There have been light and frequent snows but winds have usually been gentle and the light coverings have melted over the landscape on the warmer days. The roads have stayed open, even the trail roads, and that has been a wonderful thing, especially for families that have children in school. There are very few school buses in use because of routing difficulties. Section lines were largely disregarded when ranch locations and road surveys were laid out, so transportation is paid to parents for distances over three miles from school.

The 1959 calf crop has already begun to make its appearance. Those ranchers who have had good luck with early calves are inclined to make plans for February and early March calving. It is easier to keep the babies dry by feeding plenty of hay on sheltered frozen ground than it is when the snows are wet and the cold rains are wetter. In either case it is advisable to have sheds with dry bedding where the calves are able to enter but the cows are blocked out.

Every day or so the "heavies" are sorted from the cow bunch and put with the heavy bunch. Fifteen or 20 of these are put in the closed, well-bedded shed at night and all heavies are checked at intervals, both day and night. The newest babies are kept in the heavy lot for a few days until well started, then dehorned with paste, vaccinated, and the steers castrated. They are then ready to be turned in pairs with the cow and calf bunch.

This describes a typical family size ranch operation at this time of year here in northern Nebraska. The larger operations usually plan for later calving.

In the extensive ranch country south of Valentine, quite a number of ranchers make it a practice to have about half their calves come in the fall, the other half in the spring. The fall calves are heavy and in full bloom when they are offered for sale the next fall and find a ready market at high prices.

One of the advantages of this system is that it requires only half as many bulls. Good winter feed is plentiful and both cows and calves are kept in excellent condition. Fall calving usually finds ideal weather conditions. The spring crop can also be planned for nice weather, as those calves will be kept until they are yearlings at least.—Jack Moreland.



# LADIES' CHOICE



## Through a Ranch House Window

By DOROTHY McDONALD

March is the time when, the newly-elected officers settled into their jobs and the various committees ready to function, the National CowBelles really begin the year's activities. It's a month when time is really "of the essence," for just a couple of flips of the calendar's pages away lie our two biggest projects, "Beef for Father's Day" and the "All-American Father of the Year" campaigns.



Mrs. McDonald

So we're very happy to have a message from the 1959 "Beef for Father's Day" co-chairman, Mrs. Garrison, to inaugurate our "Know Your Officers" department. Patterned on the long-continuing "Meet Your Neighbor" column, you'll meet there the new officers who have not before appeared on these pages. But we hope it will also serve as a direct means of communication between the National officers and the members, a place where they can explain their plans and projects, ask for our assistance and perhaps answer our questions. We hope it will save a lot of time-consuming correspondence between them and the individual members—so if you have any questions to ask this year's officers or committee chairmen that you believe would interest other CowBelles, why not address them in care of this "Know Your Officers" department?

I hope you all saw the interesting article on ranch life in the Jan. 6 issue of Look Magazine. Illustrated with pictures from the ranch home of James and Velma Newland of Belle Fourche, S. D., it gave a pleasant and true-to-life view of modern living on the family-sized ranch and emphasized the neighborliness still existing in this way of life. "No one was informed ahead of time that the photographers would be there," Velma Newland writes, "for in every way we wanted it to be a typical branding day. Seventy-three people sat down to a roast beef dinner, served family style, but it really wasn't hard. I made the preparations but was helped that day by neighbor women, as my husband and the boys were being helped in the branding by their men-folks."

Mrs. Newland, a real ranch wife and a charter member of the National CowBelles, passed along some wonderful ideas for personal beef promotion in her letter. I'm going to hold them until next month, for they're so very worthwhile that they deserve more space than I have to allot to them this month.

If you didn't see the article, do try to borrow a copy of the Look for Jan. 6. You'll enjoy it.

• • •

**A Correction:** In the January issue I reported that the Carter County (Montana) CowBelles had given \$10 to their state group for beef promotion. The sum this very active and live-wire group gave was of course \$100—my eyes read it right but my lazy fingers just left off one zero. I hope the Carter County 'Belles will forgive me!

• • •

**Paid your 1959 National dues yet? If not, why not do it today and save our new secretary-treasurer that one extra task of sending out delinquent-dues notices? You'll find Mrs. Cobb's address on the masthead of this month's Chimes. The National CowBelles has grown until being our secretary-treasurer is a terribly heavy job anyhow; I think we should do what we can to lighten it.**

American National

## CowBelle Chimes

Vol. 7, No. 3

March, 1959

President—Mrs. N. H. Dekle, Route #2, Plaquemine, La.  
Vice-Presidents—Mrs. J. B. Smith, Pawhuska, Okla.; Mrs. Clyde King, Boulder, Utah; Mrs. John Harting, Pomeroy, Wash.  
Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Helen Cobb, 11766 Manorwood Dr., Baton Rouge, La.  
Editor—Mrs. Dorothy McDonald, 383 N. 47th St., San Diego 2, Calif.

## A Message From Your President

Greetings, CowBelles:

The theme of our eighth annual meeting in Omaha, Jan. 14-17, was "Conquest of Outer Space." I feel just as though I had made a trip to the moon; my feet have hardly touched the ground since. It was a wonderful meeting; the warm hospitality that was extended us in Omaha is typical of the friendliness that has made that city famous.

On behalf of the entire membership I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our hostesses, the Ne-



Officers in the Alabama CowBelle group include, from left, Mrs. Flynn Morris, director; Mrs. Ham Wilson, secretary; Mrs. N. H. Dekle (National president); Mrs. R. C. Mollette, vice-president; Mrs. Edward Wadsworth, director. In the background are Mrs. Roy Park, president, and Mrs. J. L. Adams, treasurer.

braska CowBelles, to Program Chairman Mrs. John Furman and Mrs. Katherine Andre, and to their committees.

The wonderful ladies' luncheon and style show, courtesy of Brandeis Co., the CowBelle breakfast, courtesy of Nixon Co., the delightful general council breakfast, sponsored by Safeway Stores, were all "out of this world." One could almost call the general council breakfast an international breakfast, for the delicious fruits served were flown in from many far-away places.

I would like to pause here and pay tribute to our retiring officers. To Yodie Burghart we owe a big "thank you" for the time and energy she gave so freely to the organization during her term as president; to Ida Mae Atchison, whose friendliness and ability endeared her to all of us; to Ann Hirschy and Miss Margaret McCarty for their support throughout the year. And our thanks to Mrs. Hilliard Miller for a most successful All-American Father of the Year contest, and to Nellie Houck for a wonderful Beef for Father's Day campaign. To these ladies and to everyone who helped make 1958 a successful year, we who will serve in 1959 are most grateful. We hope we can do just nearly as well.

Now we start a new year. We ask your enthusiastic support and cooperation in carrying out the programs set forth and voted upon by your executive committee and general council for 1959.

Time is an important factor in two of our projects, the All American Father of the Year and Beef for Father's Day promotion. The following chairmen are waiting to hear from you. Please contact them at once and get your spring beef promotion programs under way! Help us get our 1959 program off to a good start.

**Clelie Dekle, President.**

## Outgoing President's Report to Convention

Just a year ago today I accepted the leadership of the American National CowBelles for my fellow officers and committee chairmen. I asked for your prayers and your cooperation for those who were to lead the women's auxiliary in 1958. I want to thank you for both.

It has been another good year for the American National CowBelles. Our first major project was that of revising our membership rolls; to reclaim many delinquent members; also to work for new members. Results to date show a membership paid up of 2,275.

We also started immediately to develop our Beef for Father's Day promotion and our All-American Father of the Year Contest, which is a part of the Father's Day project. In February, Mrs. Roy Houck of South Dakota and I made a trip to Chicago to attend the meat promotion committee meeting. At that time we set plans in motion for a poster and a cooperation promotion

## COWBELLES TAKE HONORS



with the National Beef Council and the Allied Industries. Mrs. Houck made many valuable contacts while there. Supplies were sent to almost every state in the U. S. and Canada. In our files we have a letter from Mr. Rilea Doe of Safeway complimenting us on the aggressive way the campaign was handled.

The Beef Council joined hands with us, and our campaign was strengthened immeasurably through the professional services of the J. Walter Thompson Co. Three mailings went out to CowBelle groups through this cooperative effort, each time carrying a message from the National CowBelle president or a committee chairman. News releases, mats and recipes were included. At the same time, Mrs. Hilliard Miller of Colorado, chairman of the Father of the Year contest, was working hard with Lyle Liggett, American National's director of public relations, on this phase of the program. The American National took care of the Father of the Year postage while the National Beef Council absorbed the mailing costs for the Beef for Father's Day campaign.

The Father of the Year campaign was carried on on a professional basis, as was Beef for Father's Day. The winning Father of the Year was John Ruth of Kingfisher, Okla. Thirty-three states participated and 18 candidates went to the final judging.

The winner and his wife were flown to Denver, the trip paid for by the National Livestock Auction Association. The pair stayed at the Brown Palace Hotel, courtesy of Mr. O'Toole, manager. The Ruths were honored guests of the Colorado Cattlemen at their annual barbecue and there received many awards.

The next project was outdoor cookery promotion to encourage eating outdoors during the summer months. This was led by beef promotion chairman, Mrs. N. H. Dekle, Louisiana. Materials and suggestions were again mailed to all CowBelle groups, together with suggestions for getting the job done.

September saw the American Na-

tional CowBelles again cooperating with the National Beef Council on Glorious Beef Stew and Pot Roast. A joint mailing again went out carrying a letter from Mrs. Dekle. Newspaper mats and recipes of Andalusia beef stew were sent. Story of shortage of spices in Troy, Ala., and 4-H group who won with recipe in competition in National Vegetable Growers contest won in Colorado, placed fourth in national competition.

October again was a cooperative promotion with the National Restaurant Association which cost the CowBelles \$846. Of this amount, the American National CowBelles paid only \$346, \$500 being given to us by the American National Cattlemen. Through the institution's magazine a story was run about CowBelles and a Dutch Beef Stew. The requests which came for quantity recipes were from restaurants and hotels, hospitals, children's homes, army mess corps, etc. They came from New York, Connecticut, Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts and all over the U. S., and just before I came to this convention I received a request from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Many thanks to President Milburn and American National Cattlemen, as well as the National Beef Council, who assisted us.

We have worked for formation of new groups in New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Florida; and I am happy to report that South Carolina has just formed a state group and has been invited to affiliate with us.

As president, I had the honor of speaking at the general sessions of five state conventions as well as to CowBelle groups in 11 states. I testified in Washington for amendment to the P&S Act. While there, Mrs. Lynam and I took beef to the White House for President Eisenhower's Father's Day dinner.

Our Beef Cookery cookbook has been a major project for beef promotion for the past four years under the leadership of Mrs. John Guthrie and Mrs. Clyde Carlisle of California. To date

The Idaho CowBelles proved to the convention-goers at the National meeting in Omaha that they are promoting beef. Shown with the winning poster and exhibit at the American National meeting are, left to right, Mrs. Ray Bedke, Oakley, vice-president; Mrs. Robert McMinn, Pocatello, secretary, and Mrs. James Abbott, Swan Lake, president of the Idaho CowBelles.



about 35,000 copies have been sold. A revised edition is coming out in October—it will be a larger and more comprehensive book, published by Summit House Books, Inc., in New York City. The CowBelles will receive a royalty. Again, this contact with Summit House was made for us by the J. Walter Thompson Co. through the National Beef Council.

I should like to say just a few words as Yodie Burghart, wife of a producer. As I have worked this year for the industry, it is most discouraging to see every other farm commodity group organized and with funds to promote their product except the beef people. Yes, the beef industry created an organization to do the job at the Reno convention but to date has not supported it. It has been left to a few states that have state beef councils and have a systematic check-off, plus a few individuals who have supported it with their money and time.

I believe in it wholeheartedly, for I have seen it work this year. I feel safe in saying that the women of the industry believe in it, for just this morning at the new American National CowBelle meeting we voted \$3,000 in the new budget for the National Beef Council next year. We have had visible results.

From a parent's point of view, may I ask what parent would give birth to a child and then let it die of malnutrition? That's what we have done to the National Beef Council. We have not supported it with effort or money.

Are we going to continue to pride ourselves on being rugged individualists to the point that we cannot agree among ourselves, for the good of the industry?

The CowBelles have proved that we can get together. Let's really make BEEF prime in 1959!

—Mrs. Robert Burghart.



President G. B. "Slats" Wilson of the Idaho association shows Kootenai County CowBelles how he slices roast beef. The picture was taken at the meeting of the Kootenai group in December. Those observing, from left, are Julie Vandeventer, Post Falls; Dick Nolan, National Live Stock and Meat Board representative; Maxine Hartle, Hayden Lake; Mr. Wilson, Lapwai; Agnes Reynolds, Post Falls; Mrs. Evan Jones, Couer d'Alene; Bertha Geiger, Cour d'Alene, and Mrs. John Jones, Harrison.

## Here and There With The Cowbelles

CowBelles have lost a friend through the unexpected death in February of Radford Hall, executive secretary of the American National Cattlemen's Association. The members and officers of the auxiliary organization could always be sure of a sympathetic ear and good cooperation from the Denver office. We extend our deepest sympathy to Florence Hall who has always been so active and helpful in our organization.

### CALIFORNIA

The Santa Clara County CowBelles held a luncheon meeting at Los Gatos, Calif., early in February. President of the group is Mrs. Harold Patton, who discussed the program of the California Beef Council. A committee was named to nominate officers for election at the next meeting. Copies of amended by-laws were distributed.

The annual dinner dance sponsored by the Cattlemen and CowBelles was held in San Jose on Feb. 7.

CALIFORNIA: San Diego CowBelles held their annual Valentine Dinner Dance in Escondido on Feb. 14. New officers of this group include Mrs. Walter Hite, president; Mrs. Vida Ruby and Mrs. A. B. Elliot, secretaries, and Mrs. W. Handley, treasurer.

### MONTANA

In January the council of the Carter County CowBelles met at the Teigen home near Capital, Mont., to formulate plans for the CowBelles' Bawl to be held Mar. 14 at Boyes. Plans were also made for the part CowBelles will play in the Golden Jubilee in Miles City, May 20-23 during the state stockgrowers' convention. The ladies' gathering

planned for the 14th at Boyes will include a beef potluck dinner, showing of film slides made in Europe by two of the CowBelles and a "look-alike" contest for mothers and daughters and fathers and sons; the "bawl" will follow.

### MISSISSIPPI

Mrs. Charles E. Ratcliffe of Natchez succeeded Mrs. Charles B. Fisackerly of Sunflower as president of the Mississippi CowBelles. Other officers are Mrs. Knox Ross of Pelahatchie, first vice-president; Mrs. E. E. Grissom of State College, second vice-president, and Mrs. Andy Curtis of Natchez, secretary-treasurer.

Vance Braddock, farmer of Ripley, received a set of luggage as Mississippi's nominee for "All-American Father of the Year" in a contest sponsored by the American National CowBelles.

The Mississippi Association and the CowBelles will co-sponsor a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago next December for the state's 1959 winner in the 4-H beef project.

### OREGON

OREGON: Mrs. Raymond Rugg, newly-elected president of the Umatilla CowBelles, reports the group received a fine steer calf from Mr. Henry Lazinka, Ukiah and Pendleton rancher, to be used in a fund-raising project by the CowBelles. Fed out in the PGG feed and seed department, the calf will later be raffled or auctioned off. . . . Deschutes County CowBelles joined their husbands for a steak dinner in Redmond on Jan. 29. Later, while the cattlemen held their annual meeting, the CowBelles also held a short business meeting.

## Know Your Officers

You've met both Mrs. Azile Garrison and Mrs. Jack Hirschy, the two Montana ladies in charge of our "Beef for Father's Day" committee, in past "Neighbor" columns. So this time we'll just let you hear from them direct, through this note from Mrs. Garrison:

It's getting time for CowBelle activities to turn toward our "Beef for Father's Day" promotion. I greet you as your 1959 chairman. Mrs. Jack Hirschy of Jackson, Mont., is the co-chairman. We both solicit your cooperation so we can carry on the great job the CowBelles did last year under the leadership of Mrs. Roy Houck. Let's have each CowBelle's tone sound loud and clear, "Beef for Father's Day."

State presidents, if we don't already have the name and address of your chairman, please send it to us. If you don't, we have only the 1958 Year Book to rely upon, and by now that isn't too up-to-date. We plan to send only ONE free kit to each state. If the proper chairman receives it directly, it will save confusion and time loss.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

We will have the price list and kits ready in the near future. A reliable, enthusiastic group of local CowBelles is anxiously waiting to start mailing them. All the mailing will be handled from here, so please direct all correspondence to me direct—Mrs. Azile Garrison, Glen, Mont.

**Azile Garrison, Chairman**  
"Beef for Father's Day"

## Committee Chairmen for 1959

**BEEF PROMOTION**—Mrs. Lee Perkins, Richmond, Kan.

**"BEEF FOR FATHER'S DAY"**—Co-chairmen, Mrs. Wm. Garrison, Glen, Mont., Mrs. Jack Hirschy, Jackson, Mont.

**"ALL-AMERICAN FATHER OF THE YEAR"**—Mrs. J. B. Smith, Pawhuska, Okla.

**"BEEF COOKERY" COOKBOOK**—Co-chairmen, Mrs. John Guthrie, Porterville, Calif., and Mrs. Clyde Carlisle, Porterville, Calif.

**CONTACTS AND PUBLICITY, REVISED EDITION COOKBOOK**—Mrs. Robert Burghart, 2221 Wood Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**—Mrs. John Harting, Pomeroy, Wash.

**MEMBERSHIP AND SCRAPBOOK**—Mrs. Clyde King, Boulder, Utah.

\* \* \*

**CONVENTIONS:** Like spring, state conventions must be "busting out all over" in most of the cattle-raising states just now. Please don't forget to send us a brief report of YOURS, and a list of your new officers and committee chairmen so we can keep the record as up-to-date as possible until the next Year Book appears.—ED.

## CowBelles Sponsor Father of Year Contest

The Idaho CowBelles, according to Iva Webster of Horse Shoe Bend, vice-president, are again sponsoring a Father of the Year Contest. They encourage any youth groups in the state to enter a father in this contest; entries may be sent to Mrs. Webster at the above address. The National and state CowBelles hope this contest will create more publicity for, and interest in, the cattle industry.

There has been considerable interest in the contest this year from different youth groups around the state. Mrs. Webster stated she feels in the near future more and more youth groups will be taking a big hand in beef promotion. On March 25 the Idaho CowBelles will be judging the entries at a special meeting in Boise. The judges are Mrs. Gertrude Tonkin, past president of the Idaho Congress of PTA; Erling Johanson, county agent; Mr. Albert DeMeyer, Boise, past president of the Mores Creek Cattlemen's Association.

## JUNIOR ROUNDUP

(This is such an obvious heading for the Juniors' column. Maybe some of you have something better. We'd like to hear from you.—Ed.)

We Juniors are proud to have a page in the Producer. It gives us an opportunity to bring the Juniors closer together, and also we hope our page will interest you CowBelles and senior Cattlemen.

At the convention this year, we had two very fine speakers. Bill McMillan of Swift & Company explained how useless grass would be without cattle and sheep; and without markets, packers and consumers, beef would be a useless product. With his tremendous personality, the speaker easily drove this simple but important point across to us. Our second speaker, Governor Ralph Brooks of Nebraska, told us of a hundred ways to kill a meeting. Believe me, there were some guilty consciences by the time he finished.

The question is often asked as to what our job as Juniors actually is. Many parents will say we are the consumers! However, in my opinion the most important role we play on this great team of senior cattlemen, CowBelles and Juniors is that, as students, we are studying problems and solutions so that we might do an even better job when we become the drivers!

As you all know, at the state and National conventions the cattlemen's problems are discussed, and from these discussions solutions are offered. In order for us to learn, we divide up and attend the different committee meetings and take notes. At our next meeting we report on the various committee meetings. After each such report the floor is open for discussion. Questions are asked, opinions are given and members tell how their states are solving the problem. By this simple but effective method, we learn about our future business. These discussions are so complete that I would be willing to wager that, "anyone who thinks for himself," even those closely related to the problem, would leave our meeting with a new idea or two.

Looking to the coming year, we again plan to honor an outstanding individual in the cattle industry. It is our wish that all states will be able to enter candidates. Also, we want to do some kind of beef promotional work among the youth of America. On our new page we plan to make convention reports of the achievements of each state's Junior activities. For our page we hope to have an article telling about the past presidents, what they are doing, how their Junior training has helped them, etc.

In a way, you parents might compare us to insurance—with your proper guidance we can insure you that the cattle business will progress in the right direction — **Charles Andrews, President.**

**\$5.75 TATTOO MARKER**

EXTRA LETTERS OR FIGURES—30c EA.



Complete with set of figures 1 to 10, bottle of ink and full instructions, all for \$5.75 postpaid.

### CATTLE BLANKETS

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Several kinds to select from. Write for prices.

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1. Bright silvery finish chain.
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COUNCIL BLUFFS  
IOWA

### ABERDEEN-ANGUS JOURNAL

Official Publication for the American Angus Association. Published monthly.

25c for sample copy. 3 Years for \$5.00

P. O. Box 238, Webster City, Iowa

In Food Merchandising we read that a strike settlement increased the Los Angeles weekly wage to \$111.60 a week from \$92 and gives other benefits, one of which is psychiatric care for employees who suffer nervous breakdowns.

## FREE CATTLE BOOK for boys and girls

32-pages of information on how to select, feed, fit, show calves and manage beef steer & heifer projects



Brand-new, 2-color booklet with lots of pictures prepared by leaders in the beef cattle industry shows you how to win success with your beef projects regardless of breed.

### CLUB LEADERS AND VO. AG. TEACHERS

Write for several copies to use for instruction or as a guide for your club members.

### SEND TODAY FOR FREE BOOK

Glue coupon to postcard or write for colorful 32-page cattle booklet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail: American Angus Ass'n, St Joseph, Mo.

# Shows and Sales

## SHORTHORN PRESIDENT JUDGES AT PERTH

W. N. Anderson, West Liberty, Iowa, president of the American Shorthorn Association, and Kenneth R. Fulk, executive secretary along with 11 Shorthorn breeders recently returned from Perth, Scotland, where they attended the 95th annual Shorthorn show and sale. Mr. Anderson was judge of the annual event at which 400 bulls were paraded before him.

## PERFORMANCE TESTED BULLS ON SALE MAR. 21 IN OKLA.

A double registered performance tested bull sale will be held at Murray State College Campus, Tishomingo, Okla., on Mar. 21. Don Taggart of Tishomingo is sales manager for the event, which is sponsored by the Johnston County Cattlemen's Association and Oklahoma Beef Cattle Improvement Association in cooperation with the American Beef Cattle Performance Registry International and Oklahoma State University Extension Service. The offering includes 58 Herefords, 51 Angus, 12 Polled Herefords, three Charolais and Red Angus, all the bulls having been performance tested.

## SOUTHWESTERN SHOW CHAMP IS AUCTIONED AT \$6,000

The grand champion steer of the 1959 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth brought its nine-year-old owner, Connie Swinford of Wichita Falls, \$6,000. Amon Carter, Jr., chairman of the stock show board, purchased the animal at auction to give to an institution for underprivileged children. The reserve champion steer, a Hereford owned by Ronnie Martin of Lubbock, sold for \$3,000. The top Shorthorn and champion Angus each brought \$1,800.

## TEXAN WILL JUDGE STEERS AT CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL

The acting head of the animal husbandry department at Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Stanley Anderson, has been selected to judge all individual steer classes at the 1959 International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago. Albert K. Mitchell of Albert, N. M., chairman of the show's board of directors, announces Mr. Anderson will serve for the next two years as successor to Dean A. D. Weber of Kansas State College who was the steer judge for 11 consecutive years; Dean Weber was recently elected a director of the International Exposition.

## EXHIBITORS SHARE HONORS IN GERTRUDIS SHOW

Grand champion honors in the Santa Gertrudis division of the Southwestern Exposition at Fort Worth went to a 2,275-pound two-year-old bull from Winrock Farm, Morrilton, Ark., the top bull, and to a 1,500-pound aged cow from R. E. Smith Ranches at Houston, Tex., which took the top female banner. The Winrock bull is now owned by E. E. Fogelson of Dallas, but is being shown through the spring season by the breeder, Winrock Farm, which also showed the reserve champion female, a junior yearling heifer. The reserve champion bull was a senior yearling owned by Smith Ranches.

## TEXAS HEREFORD STEER ALL BREED CHAMP

A 930-pound Hereford steer was named grand champion in the San Antonio Livestock Show last month. The animal was shown by 17-year-old Bill Breeding of Miami, Tex. A 1,030-pound calf was named reserve champion Hereford steer. Jane Holloway, 15, of Abilene, Tex., was the exhibitor.

## RED ANGUS NOTES

The sixth annual meeting of the Red Angus Association of America was held in Fort Worth, Tex., where the organization was founded in March, 1954. New officers of the group are Geo. C. Chiga, Guthrie, Okla., president; R. C. Buckner, Jacksonville, Tex., first vice-president; Dr. Braswell Locker, Brownwood, Tex., second vice-president; Joe P. Givhan, Mobile, Ala., board secretary. Vernice Chiga is executive secretary-treasurer.

Registered Red Angus cattle were officially judged for the first time anywhere, at the Southwestern Livestock Exposition in Fort Worth, Tex., on Feb. 5. About 50 head of the breed represented nine herds. The grand champion bull was a junior calf shown by Harold Henry, Hamilton, Mo. Grand champion female was a junior heifer calf shown by Mrs. Waldo E. Forbes, Sheridan, Wyo.

## DEVON CLUB ELECTS. SETS NEW POLICY

Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse has been elected president of the American Devon Cattle Club. He maintains a herd of more than 100 head at his farm in Poolesville, Md., and several of his animals have won prizes in major Devon shows. Kenneth Hinshaw was re-elected for his 10th year as secretary-treasurer. During the club's meeting, the members also adopted a weight-for-age index rating to be recorded on registration certificates. The system tells how many days it takes for a calf to reach 500 pounds or a yearling to reach 1,000 pounds.

## HEREFORD HONORS TAKEN BY OHIAN AND TEXANS

Texas and Ohio Hereford breeders shared championship honors at a showing of their breed during Fort Worth's Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in February. The top bull was owned by Hull Dobbs Ranch of Fort Worth, which also showed the top female. The reserve champion bull, a junior calf, was bred and shown by Jake Hess of McLean and Jay Pumphrey of Old Glory. Second-high honors for a female went to a senior yearling exhibited by McCormick Farms, Medina, O. George Harris of Winona, Miss., had the best pens of five bulls and 15.

An \$804 average was paid for 72 Hereford cattle sold at auction, with five females figuring \$507 and 67 bulls \$877.

## POLLED SHORTHORN CONGRESS MAR. 23-24

The 19th annual National Polled Shorthorn Congress, set for Mar. 23-24 at Springfield, Ill., has been designated as the Charles J. Lynn Memorial Congress, to honor the late Indian for his contributions to the development of the breed in this country. The congress will feature a show and sale of 80 Polled Shorthorns.

## TWO 4-Hers WIN WITH HEREFORDS



American Hereford Assn. photo

Two 4-H Club members from Texas teamed up with two prime Hereford steers to capture grand and reserve championships at the Southwestern Exposition at Fort Worth. From left: Roy Parks, Midland, Texas, commercial Hereford breeder to whom the show was dedicated; Connie Swinford, Wichita Falls, and her grand champion; Judge Robert Black, New Mexico A & M; and Ronnie Martin, Lubbock, exhibitor of the reserve champ.



## SHORTHORNS IN THE NEWS

Appointment of a new advertising and public relations director has been announced by Kenneth R. Fulk, executive secretary of the American Shorthorn Association. He is Dick Robertson, a 1951 graduate of Oklahoma State University and a native of Oklahoma.

The reserve grand champion at the recent San Antonio Livestock Exposition was a light roan senior Shorthorn shown by Don Obrecht & Son, Harlan, Ia. The steer had previously been named breed champion at both the International and the American Royal in 1957.

## CHAROLAIS PUREBREDS AND CROSS AVERAGE \$906

In the mid-February consignment sale of the Texas Charolais & Charolais-Cross Sales Corp. held during the San Antonio Livestock Exposition in San Antonio, six purebred Charolais and 21 Charolais-Cross animals brought \$24,460 with an over-all average price of \$906. The top seller was a purebred bull at \$2,050; the top selling female, a  $\frac{7}{8}$  Charolais-Cross cow with a  $\frac{1}{16}$  Charolais-Cross heifer calf at side, brought \$1,410. The six purebreds totaled \$9,280; the 11 females totaled \$10,880 and 16 bulls \$13,580.

## RED BLUFF SALE PRICES TOP 1958 LEVELS

In California's Red Bluff Bull Sale last month, more than 100 Hereford buyers from five states bought 260 bulls for a \$959 average which was \$200 above the 1958 average on Herefords. The top bull of this breed brought \$4,800. The price for Angus bulls also topped last year's, with a \$763 figure over \$667 a year ago. The 43 bulls brought \$32,790 to average \$763, and the top Angus seller went for a bid of \$1,550.

A two-year-old from Ben Smith's Corona Hereford Ranch at Corona, Calif., was the champion of breed at the 1959 sale. The reserve champion was a junior yearling consigned by Jensen Bros., Logan, Utah. Double M Hereford Ranch at Adams, Ore., had the champion pen of five bulls for the sixth straight time. Chandler Herefords of Baker, Ore., took second top money with a pen of five junior yearlings at \$1,250. The champion Angus bull came from Oakhaven Ranch at Napa, Calif., and sold for \$1,275. The top seller among the Angus, also from Oakhaven, brought \$1,550.

## CALIFORNIA RAM SALE TO BE HELD IN MAY

The annual California Ram Sale has been set for May 4-5 at Sacramento. This is the California Wool Growers Association's 39th annual sale and will include the wool show and the 21st annual Far Western International Sheep Dog Trials.

# BULLS

FOR SALE AT PRIVATE TREATY

## FRANKLIN HEREFORDS

A reliable source of practical, dependable registered Hereford breeding stock. Yearling bulls for sale now.

B. P. Franklin  
Meeker, Colo.

## CHANDLER HEREFORDS

Range Bulls of Uniform Quality in Carload Lots

Herbert Chandler

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## ABERDEEN-ANGUS CATTLE

Purebred and Commercial

## N BAR RANCH, Grass Range, Mont.



RANGE BULLS purchased from breeders who use **TR HERD BULLS** could greatly improve your calf crop. Breeders' names furnished on request.

**TURNER RANCH • SULPHUR, OKLA.**

WE HAVE 15 really big low but thick and long serviceable bulls for sale. Also 75 females that will be fine for building a better commercial herd or for discriminating registered breeders' herds. See them and us.

**F. E. MESSERSMITH & SONS, Alliance, Nebraska**

"Our Herefords build the beef where the highest priced cuts of meat grow"

## PERFORMANCE TEST GROUP TO MEET AT MILES CITY

Miles City, Mont., where performance testing work originated, will be host to the annual meeting of Performance Registry International, June 15-16. The Montana Beef Performance Association will sponsor the meeting.



Huge Rope-Cable. Heavy-duty triple chain encased and reinforced! Lifetime Service! Kills lice, grub, flies, mosquitoes, mange mites. Stops destructive rubbing! Starting price "ONLY" \$23.75. Write for literature and GREATEST OFFER EVER MADE TO STOCK-MEN!

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## TEXAS A. & M. TEAM WINS JUDGING AT DENVER

The Texas A.&M. livestock judging team won the carload judging contest at the recent National Western Show in Denver and placed 5th in the livestock contest. Team members were L. D. Wythe, Jr., coach, College Station; Joe Joyce, San Marcos; Robert Van Winkle, Kilgore; Lovell Kuykendall, Cherokee; Don Weinacht, Balmorehea; Carrol Osbourn, Llano; Dickie Hill, Fairfield. Trophies were presented by the American Angus Association and Station KLZ, Denver.

## OLD MEXICO BUYER TOPS CK RANCH SALE IN KANSAS

A purebred and commercial establishment in Old Mexico topped the CK ranch sale early March on a bid of \$7,100. The 66 bulls sold averaged \$1,314. The 10 females averaged \$663. The 76 lots brought \$93,320, for an average of \$1,228.

## SOME BULL!

Ten years ago, F. J. Janowski, Houston, Texas, taxidermist, was browsing through a "horn-pile" on range country in the vicinity of San Antonio. He was searching for unusual and matched horns for the purpose of mounting.

He found some!

He found the largest bull horns known to exist.

Mr. Janowski was unable to locate anybody who had seen the bull or had any knowledge of whom he belonged to. The breed of the original owner of these proud ornaments remains undetermined.

This fabulous pair of horns measure almost 30 inches in circumference at their base, 4 feet, 4 inches from tip to tip, and weighed approximately 50 pounds when they adorned the head of this king-sized beast.

These horns have been on display at the Houston Fat Stock Show with the claim that they were the largest in the world. This statement has not been challenged to date.

The horns are presently owned and displayed by Harry McLane in Webster, Texas.—Mike Kelly.



Harry McLane displays a pair of horns that measure almost 30 inches in circumference at their base, 4 feet, 4 inches from tip to tip.

## BOOKSHELF

A new 20-page illustrated bulletin tells how stockmen can materially increase their feed production and grazing capacity of their pasture and hay land with sorghum grass, a new high-production sweet forage crop recently introduced from Australia. The booklet contains results of several studies made with the perennial, which is similar to Sudan grass in appearance, contains more than 14 per cent protein, up to 172,000 units of vitamin A per pound and has not been known to cause a case of bloat in several hundred thousand head of cattle grazed on it in more than three years in this country. The bulletin may be obtained from New Mexico Seed Farms, Inc., P. O. Box 1001-A, Clovis, N. M.

The Farnam Companies at Omaha, Nebr., have brought out a catalog of their Livestock Products and Stock-Pest Spray Guide. Stockmen will find helpful the charts it contains on proper use of the various sprays on different kinds of animals. Copies are available on request from the firm at 8701 N. 29th St., Omaha, Nebr.

"The Farm Beef Herd" is a new bulletin about various systems of farm

beef production. It covers selection of breeding stock, raising of replacements and feeding and care of animals. It treats of kinds and amounts of feed needed for different beef production systems and care of calves from dual purpose cows, also creep feeding, weaning, dehorning and castrating and supplements. Free. Write to Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Drawings of 44 important Colorado rangeland grasses appear in a new bulletin published by Colorado State University, called "Handbook of Colorado Native Grasses." The bulletin describes the grasses, lists their growth characteristics, and makes suggestions on management of range land. The bulletin is available free to Colorado residents. Write to the Bulletin Room, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo.

## DEATHS

**Willard Mayberry:** The publisher of the Tri-State News in Kansas passed away late in February at age 56. He was a director of the Kansas Cattle-men's Association and a member of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

## Personal Mention

**David G. Rice** of Denver, executive secretary of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, has received the annual Colorado Veterinary Medical Association award as "an outstanding lay contributor to the advancement of veterinary medicine." Work done with brucellosis and the bull-testing program was cited by the association.

**Horace H. Hening** of Albuquerque has been elected president of the New Mexico Farm, Ranch and Home Safety Council. He succeeds J. L. Merritt of Yeso, the group's first president. The council was formerly known as the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Safety Council. Mr. Hening is executive secretary of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association.

**Dolph Briscoe, Jr.**, vice-president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, is one of five outstanding young Texans honored by the state's Junior Chamber of Commerce in Denton recently. He was also one of a number of south Texas ranchers featured in an article entitled "Texas Grass Is Coming Back" in the Saturday Evening Post.

**W. C. Crew**, president of Denver Union Stockyards Co., has been elected president of the Ogden and Idaho Stockyards Companies, succeeding **L. M. Pexton**, who retired January 1, 1959. Mr. Crew also replaces Mr. Pexton as chairman of the board of the Denver company.

**Philip L. Heaton**, chief of the branch of recreation and land uses for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service, will head up the national forest phase of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review in Washington, under legislation enacted last year. **Robert W. Gardner**, supervisor of Routt National Forest at Steamboat Springs, Colo., will succeed Mr. Heaton in Denver.

**Miss Irene Young**, who had edited the National Wool Grower magazine for the past 41 years, will retire Mar. 31. The announcement was made by President **Don Clyde** at the recent convention of the National Wool Growers Association.

**John C. Miller**, recreation project inspector, branch of recreation and land uses for the Rocky Mountain region of the Forest Service, is being transferred to supervisor of the Routt National Forest in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

American Cattle Producer Editor **David O. Appleton** has been named acting executive secretary of the American National temporarily to fill the post left vacant by the sudden death of **Radford S. Hall** on Feb. 17.

# Cow Pony Corral

By Roy Lilley

(This month we are carrying a first-hand account of one of the greatest feats of endurance ever recorded by a cow pony. Many thanks to Russell Thorp, a man who has ridden more good ponies than ever seen, for sending in this story. It's the famous ride by Edgar Beecher Bronson, a Wyoming Stock Growers executive committee member.—Roy Lilley)

Late in September, 1878, I had ridden into Cheyenne from the ranch to buy and bring out the winter supplies for my outfit, and there first learned of a Cheyenne outbreak. Naturally anxiety was felt by men having ranches north of the Platte, but with the great number of troops in the field news was expected from day to day that the Cheyennes had been rounded up and captured. When, however, on the afternoon of Oct. 5, news arrived that Dull Knife's main war party had crossed the Union Pacific at Ogallala, it became plain that temporizing must cease and the time for action had come; so, leaving instructions that no supplies should be forwarded until after peace was restored and the safety of the trails assured, I struck out northward on the morning of the 5th, alone.

My mount for the journey, fortunately, was the best cow pony I ever owned or ever saw—a square-built, short-backed, deep-barrelled, dark red bay, with great blazing eyes, alert and watchful as any of his long line of wild mustang ancestors; a horse whose favorite gait was a low, swift, daisy-clipping lope, easy as a rocking-chair to the rider, and no more tiring to the beast than a trot to an average pony—good old "ND"!

Early in the afternoon ND and I made the Dater Ranch on Bear Creek, 50 miles north of Cheyenne, the last cattle ranch between Cheyenne and my place.

Next morning, starting before sunrise, having no trails and striking straight across country through Goshen's Hole, we swam the Platte and by noon had reached the ranch of Nick Janisse lying on the north bank of the Platte 28 miles east of Fort Laramie.

I had expected to spend the night with Janisse, but shortly after my arrival his son-in-law, a half-breed named Louis Changro, rode in from the east with the news that he had seen a party of 18 Cheyenne bucks about 15 miles east of the ranch, heading northwest directly into the hill country between Sheep Creek and the head of Snake Creek, which I had to cross to get home—this, evidently a small scouting party sent out ahead by Dull Knife.

Of course it was madness to expect to cross in daylight the 76 intervening miles between Janisse's ranch and mine, with Cheyenne scouts out, I therefore decided the ride home must

be made that night. Although the task was a heavy one for a horse that had already done his 45 miles in the forenoon, I felt old ND could make it.

Just at twilight a tremendous thunderstorm broke—very conveniently, for the moon was not due to rise until after 10 o'clock.

As soon as it was dark we struck out on an old United States government wagon trail, long disused, which I would never have been able to follow but for the constant flashes of lightning. Luckily the storm held up until time for the moon to rise, and by that time we were getting up out of the valley of Sheep Creek upon the drier uplands, where I could let out ND into the free, easy stride he loved.

We had only one alarm throughout the night. Toward midnight, I was relying more on ND's alert watchfulness than my own, tired and dozing comfortably in the saddle (a knack all cowboys know and practice when traveling a trail). Suddenly old ND bounded to one side and nearly unseated me.

Of course I could fancy nothing but Cheyennes, but, jerking my pistol and looking quickly about in the dim moonlight, could see nothing.

Still old ND shied away as if in deadly fear of something behind him on the ground, and, looking closely back, I was surprised to see a skunk following us, literally charging after us as if mad—and mad I have no doubt he was, as often have I heard of men being bitten, while sleeping on the plains at night, by these little animals, and later dying with all symptoms of hydrophobia. Hesitating to take the chance of stirring up some marauding neighbor by shooting my little pursuer, I gave ND his head and we soon left

him behind.

Few greater performances are recorded by horseflesh than old ND achieved that night, for when, a little after dawn the next morning, we reached the Deadman home ranch, old ND had completed 121 miles between sun and sun, and had done it without quirt or spur.

Thanks to the military wire to the railroad, I found the boys already had news of the approaching enemy, and learned that Johnson's and Thompson's troops of the Third Cavalry were patrolling the heart of my range from Robinson to the head of White River, and were scouting daily for the approaching Cheyennes.

## Ranchers as Legislators

Bob Hanesworth says in Cow Country that 16 members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association are in the state senate—a majority. In the House he lists 14 out of 56.

Fred Harris of the Nevada Cattle-men's Association says four of the 17 state senators and 11 of 47 assemblymen are ranchers.



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**One Man STOCK CHUTE**



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**THE HUMANE WAY**  
**to Handle Cattle!**

Stanchion-type neck yokes replace dangerous front gate. Chute opens wide. Animals see through and enter freely. There is no front gate to try to jump. Neck yokes hold animal securely without choking them. Cattle are quickly and easily handled without danger of injury.

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## PUBLIC LIKES BEEF

For many years, average consumption of beef ranged between 50 and 60 pounds per person annually. By 1950 it was above 60 pounds. Each year since 1954 it has been 80 pounds or more. In brief, the chief factors underlying this increase for beef are:

1. Rising incomes of consumers. Families with higher incomes have traditionally eaten more beef, and incomes have increased substantially.

2. Improved refrigeration. Until refrigeration became available in homes, the poorer keeping qualities of uncured beef than of cured pork seriously handicapped its consumption. This was particularly true in rural areas. Just since World War II, introduction of deep freezers has led to a doubling of beef consumption by farm families.

3. Improved practices in production and distribution. In beef production, feedlot feeding of cattle especially has been aided by the new techniques. It has expanded greatly. Various practices and techniques in retailing appear to have given more benefit to beef than to other red meats.

While beef consumption per person has moved so much higher, that for pork has scarcely held its earlier position. A damaging factor has been consumers' swing to beef as their incomes have increased. A growing rejection of fat in pork has reduced demand for that meat. Shift in hog production to a meat hog has proceeded less rapidly than consumers' shift of preference to lean pork.

The supply of veal per person has not risen because (1) numbers of milk cows have not increased, preventing an increase in supply of veal calves from that source. Fewer milk cows were on farms in 1958 than in 1929; (2) production of veal and calf from beef cows has been held down by the rising demand for beef calves to go into feedlots.

The decline in consumption of lamb since World War II is due almost entirely to reduced production of sheep on the western range. As our nation develops, pastoral sheep herding gradually fades in importance.

Biggest percentage increases in production and consumption have been in poultry. The 34 pounds of chicken and turkey consumed last year were more than twice the average rate in the 1920's and 30's. For chicken alone the consumption rate almost exactly doubled; for turkey, it multiplied several times.

In terms of pounds, on the other hand, increase in poultry has been less than in red meat. Poultry meat supply is still a small fraction of red meat supply.

**More fed beef.** Among changes in meat supply and distribution over the years are the following:

1. Increase in feedlot feeding of cattle and in production of fed beef. Just after World War II, about 6 million cat-

tle and calves were finished in feedlots each year. Now the number fed exceeds 10 million.

In the late 1920's, less than 30 per cent of all beef produced was fed beef. In 1958, 50 per cent was fed beef.

2. Increase in the proportion of beef falling in the higher grades. In 1956, about 58 per cent of all beef produced was of good grade or better. This was an increase from the 51 per cent estimated as in those grades in 1947. (Comparisons for those two years are fairly valid because those years were at comparable positions in the cattle cycle.)

While more of all beef has been of the top three grades combined, the gains have been in the choice and good grades, not prime. Prime has lost favor in recent years. Very highly finished beef now finds a rather narrow demand, largely confined to the hotel and part of the restaurant trade.

3. More processing of meat. The largest increases in processing have been in the simple grinding of beef into hamburger, and in canning of meat. In the spring of 1955, a survey found that half of all meat eaten in private homes was in processed form—hamburger, frankfurters, luncheon meats, bacon, sausages, canned meats. Half was fresh or frozen cuts. Ground beef ranked alongside beef roasts and steaks as major portions of that beef diet.

Canned meat received its boost during World War II. Consumption has averaged about 10 pounds per person since then.

4. **More chicken** from commercial broiler production. Commercial broiler production has skyrocketed. However, this has been in part a replacement of chicken obtained from farm flocks and from backyard flocks of town and city families. It is not entirely a net increase.

5. More federal grading of meat. In 1958, 50 per cent of all beef produced commercially, 16 per cent of veal, and 36 per cent of lamb and mutton was graded by federal graders. These per-

centages compared with 29, 16, and 27 per cent, respectively, in 1947, and only 8, 1, and 3 per cent in 1940.

6. Reduced seasonal fluctuations in supply. Seasonal fluctuation in supply of meat and poultry has long been a bugbear to processors and distributors. Although much fluctuation remains, it is less than at one time. Cattle feeding has become a year-round enterprise. Notable success has been achieved recently in smoothing the seasonal distribution of sow farrowings.—Harold F. Breimyer, USDA.

## 30,000-Head Feeder Plant Fattens Cattle In Home Area

A story in the Alabama Cattleman tells of a new multi-million-dollar feeder cattle plant on a 175-acre tract near Decatur, Ala. The production of three annual "crops" of 10,000 beef cattle with about a \$6 million market value is the goal of Armour & Co. and the Alabama Flour Mills, backers of the program. This calls for cattle to weigh in at around 700 pounds when entering the feedlot, then being fattened to a weight of more than 1,000 pounds.

## Recent USDA Charges In P&SY Cases

Recent action of the USDA includes charges against—

Century Provision Co., Chicago, alleging altering meat grade certificates, applying false grade stamps, failure to keep proper records.

Minch's Wholesale Meats, Inc., Red Bluff, Calif., alleging failure to keep proper accountings and records and selling meat from stock bought by respondents for its own account and selling on an agency basis for various persons meats from livestock slaughtered by respondent for these persons on a consignment basis.

Sol J. Solomon, Indianapolis meat packer, alleging failure to pay for livestock purchased, issuing checks returned for insufficient funds, failure to keep proper records and filing an inaccurate annual report with USDA.

Pierce Packing Co., Billings, Mont., alleging "unfair, unjustly discriminatory and deceptive practices in commerce" in connection with purchases of swine for slaughter.

## Grasshoppers More Widespread But Less Threatening

Grasshoppers are likely to be more widespread but less of a threat in 1959, says USDA. Grasshoppers were found on 22.6 million rangeland acres in 15 western states as compared with 18,686,492 acres in 1957, but the new survey showed most of the acreage to carry only light or moderate infestations. Sample counts later this spring of newly emerged grasshoppers will pinpoint areas that may need control. Colorado, Montana and California have the largest rangeland areas with heavy populations.



"I found out one thing today . . . The man who writes the bank advertising is not the one who makes the loans."

## New State Bills

### TEXAS

A bill passed by the Texas Senate and sent to the House would permit quarantine of range cattle brought into Texas unless certified as free from contagious disease.

### KANSAS

Bills introduced in the Kansas Senate include a measure to add a 5-cent fee for livestock brand inspection at community sales, to help support the livestock sanitary commissioner's work.

### MONTANA

A bill to permit the state livestock sanitary board to build a \$290,000 diagnostic laboratory in Bozeman was passed by the Montana House and sent to the Senate. Also passed by the House was a bill to raise brand registration fees from \$6 to \$8 and for registration every 10 years from \$3 to \$4.

### NEVADA

A bill to increase the stock inspection levy from 4 to 7 mills on each dollar of valuation was introduced in the Nevada legislature by assemblyman Roy Young, Elko, former president of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. The bill would raise the levy from the present 16 cents a cow to 28 cents and add \$36,000 to the present annual income of \$48,000 from that source. A bill (AB 271) would require display of hides or bills of sale on cattle carcasses. AB 272 would restrict earmarks to no more than half the ear and prohibit the practice of bringing the ear to a point by removing the edges. AB 270 would create a livestock disease control board and appropriate \$35,000 to pay for a drive on diseases of livestock that may be communicable to man.

### NEBRASKA

Nebraska legislators are talking about a bill which would tax livestock as grain is now taxed—on a production basis. As an example, a cow could be taxed once then future taxation would be on the increase for calves on the animal. A bill to allow the state to be declared a brucellosis area for purposes of receiving federal aid to be used in combating the disease was given final passage by the legislature.

A bill to make it a felony to import livestock into Nebraska in defiance of an embargo was favorably reported by the legislature and its judiciary committee. The measure provides fines up to \$5,000, imprisonment to 5 years.

### IOWA

Enactment of legislation to permit a check-off on Iowa (10 cents a head on cattle) farm animals marketed for slaughter in the state was proposed by livestock groups. The revenue, estimated at \$600,000 a year, would be used primarily to stimulate demand for Iowa meat among consumers.



**EXTREMELY DRY** — We are extremely dry in this section. Trading is slow at the present. Much of the grain has frozen out or blown out. Enjoy your paper. — G. U. Baker, Wichita Falls, Texas.

**I count on K·R·S against screw worms and maggots**

says Frank Carmichael, owner, Carmichael Ranch Marysville, Calif.



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**QUITE DRY**—I enjoy reading Cow Business as well as your magazine, and I appreciate your able efforts in behalf of the cattle business. This section of Texas is quite dry and pastures short of grass, due in part to infestation of rats last fall when grazing for winter was promising, and to lack of moisture. Where fed protein and hay, cattle have wintered very well.—Graham P. Stewart, Graham, Texas.

**WORTH THE MONEY** — The Association's decal on our door is well worth the dues we pay, plus all the wonderful information in Cow Business and the Producer — Joe Harris, Howell, Mich.

"Hope is unwinding a piece of knotted string you suspect won't be long enough anyway."—Frances Rodman.

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## Pre-Packaged Frozen Meat Sales Try Turns Up Failure

The much-heralded packer efforts to produce and market frozen consumer packaged meats in the past few years have failed, says National Provisioner. The magazine said that retailers attending a meeting sponsored by the National Association of Food Chains in Chicago were of the opinion "we would have to take a new look at frozen meat."

Walter Fitzgibbon of The Kroger Co. said that the processor will have to step up the standard of quality, make packages with better visibility so the consumer can see what she is getting, and the meat must be sold soon after it is processed, not frozen during periods of abundant supply and delivered several months later. He said high cost of packaging and labor helped price frozen meat out of the market.

The magazine said that at a 1955 American Meat Institute meeting, specialists predicted that 12 to 15 per cent of fresh meats sold at retail would be pre-packaged, quick frozen, in three to five years from that date, and one man thought the volume might be as high as 50 per cent by 1960.

## Southeast Screwworm Fight Reported as Successful

The USDA reports good progress in the campaign to eliminate the screwworm in the Southeast. Getting rid of the pest involves the use of screwworm flies made sterile by exposure to radioactive cobalt. When these male flies mate with native females (which mate

only once) the eggs are rendered infertile. Screwworm cases have been greatly reduced in the area, but stockmen are warned against too much optimism. During 1958 about 2 billion sterile flies were dropped by plane over nearly 85,000 square miles in the Southeast. The campaign started July 11, 1958.

## Seeks New Application Of Leather in Automobiles

One of the big auto manufacturers, replying to a letter of President G. R. Milburn of the American National about the use of leather in automobile upholstery, said:

"We are continuously looking for ways to make the best in competitive transportation. In our continuous program of analyzing materials for use in our product, we find that in many instances the raw material producer is very helpful in suggesting ways in which the materials can be used in the automotive industry. Should you or your organization have helpful ideas for new applications of leather, we would be most interested in talking with you."

Maybe some of our readers have suggestions. We'd like to have them.

## 1959 Federal Grazing Fee Up 3 Cents to 22 Cents

The Bureau of Land Management has announced a 3-cent increase in the public land grazing fee this year. Use of the range will cost 22 cents per animal-unit-month (22 cents for cattle, 44 for horses, 22 for five sheep or goats); in 1958 the fee was 19 cents. The system of determining fees, in effect since Jan. 1, 1958, is based on average livestock prices at markets in the 11 far western states during 1958. Twenty thousand stockmen grazing nearly 9 million head of stock on some 160 million acres in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and California are affected.

## Western Canadian Steers Reported Down 19 Per Cent

The Canadian cattle population on Dec. 1, at 10,112,000 head, was down 2 per cent from a year earlier, the largest decrease being in western Canada where unprecedented exports of feeder cattle to the U. S. reduced steer numbers 19 per cent.

## Mexico Increases Export Duties on Live Cattle

Mexico's ad valorem export duties are now 20 per cent on male animals 550 pounds or over; 35 per cent on female animals 550 pounds or over and male animals under 550 pounds, and 40 per cent on females under 550 pounds. The official export prices on which the duties are based changed to 13 cents per pound for female animals and 19 cents per pound for male animals.

## Construction To Start Soon On Cowboy Hall of Fame

Immediate negotiation for start of construction of the first phase of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame was authorized in Denver Feb. 28 by the shrine's board of trustees.

Officers, headed by Albert K. Mitchell, Albert N. M., were empowered to contract for building of a \$1,500,000 section of the unique structure atop a hill near Oklahoma City. Construction should be completed in 1960.

The trustees representing 17 western states also elected Mr. Mitchell chairman of the board; Fred Dressler, Gardnerville, Nev., first vice-chairman; and A. M. G. Swenson, Stamford, Texas, and Ray Schnell, Dickinson, N. D., vice-chairmen. Fred S. Porter, Jr., Phoenix, Ariz., was elected secretary-treasurer, and Glenn Faris, Oklahoma City, was named executive vice-chairman.

The trustees also accepted for honoring in the shrine several nominations of the participating states and four "at-large" nominations as representative of the men and women who contributed greatly to development of the West. The at-large honorees were Capt. Richard King, founder of Texas' King Ranch; Kit Carson, famed mountain man and rancher; Sacajawea, Indian woman guide for the Lewis and Clark expedition; and William MacLeod Raine, outstanding writer of authentic western and ranching stories.

Fund raising campaigns in several states were reviewed along with plans for initiating participating drives in other areas soon.

## No Severe 'Killer Storms' But Snow and Cold Lingered

Prospects for spring grazing in the western part of the country are below this time last year, but otherwise the early season outlook is the best since 1951. It's been a hard winter for livestock, particularly east of the Divide; no severe "killer storms" but prolonged cold and snow meant heavy supplementing.

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Mar. 15-17—Nat'l Angus Conference, Manhattan, Kans.  
 Mar. 16-19—Western States Meat Packers Assn. convention, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Mar. 22-24—New Mexico Cattle Growers Assn. meeting, Albuquerque.  
 Mar. 23-25—Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. meeting, Dallas.  
 Apr. 6-7—Nat'l Institute of Animal Agriculture meeting, Lafayette, Ind.  
 May 14-16—Washington Cattlemen's Assn. meeting, Okanogan.  
 May 20-23—Montana Stock Growers Assn. convention, Miles City.  
 May 25-27—Nat'l Watershed Congress meeting, Washington, D. C.  
 June 3-5—South Dakota Stock Growers Assn. meeting, Rapid City.  
 June 4-5—Wyoming Stock Growers Assn. meeting, Laramie.  
 June 8 (tent.)—Colorado Cattlemen's Assn. meeting, Craig.  
 June 8-10—North Dakota Stockmen's Assn. meeting, Bismarck.  
 June 11-13—Nebraska Stock Growers Assn. meeting, Lincoln.  
 June 25-27—National Livestock Marketing Congress, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

## FEDERALLY INSP. SLAUGHTER

(In thousands)

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Jan. 1959	1,441	424	5,885	1,322
Jan. 1958	1,629	547	5,531	1,061

(Of the cattle slaughtered in January 1959, 42.8 per cent were cows and heifers; in January 1958 the percentage was 44.6.)

## CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Feb. 26, 1959	Feb. 24, 1958
Steers, Prime	\$29.00 - 32.00	\$30.00 - 35.25
Steers, Choice	26.75 - 30.50	26.00 - 32.50
Steers, Good	25.00 - 27.25	23.50 - 26.75
Steers, Std.	23.25 - 25.50	21.50 - 23.50
Cows, Comm.	19.00 - 20.50	17.75 - 18.50
Vealers, Gd.	32.00 - 33.00	30.00 - 35.00*
Vealers, Std.	25.00 - 32.00	23.00 - 30.00
Calves, Gd.-Ch.	—	23.00 - 28.00
Calves, Std.	—	21.00 - 23.00
F & S Strs., Gd.-Ch.	24.75 - 35.00	22.50 - 29.00
F & S Strs., Md.	23.00 - 27.00	17.50 - 24.00**
Hogs (180-240#)	15.00 - 16.00	19.50 - 20.85
Lambs, Gd.-Ch.	18.75 - 19.75	22.50 - 25.00
Ewes, Gd.-Ch.	6.00 - 8.50	8.50 - 10.50

(\* Gd.-Ch.)  
 (\*\* Cm.-Md.)

## WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	(Chicago)	Feb. 26, 1959	Feb. 25, 1958
Beef, Choice		\$44.00 - 48.00	\$43.50 - 47.00
Beef, Good		41.50 - 45.50	40.00 - 43.00
Beef, Std.		40.50 - 44.00	37.50 - 41.50
Veal, Prime		55.00 - 59.00	54.00 - 57.00
Veal, Choice		49.00 - 53.00	51.00 - 54.00
Veal, Good		44.00 - 51.00	43.00 - 50.00
Lamb, Choice		35.00 - 42.00	46.00 - 52.00
Lamb, Good		33.00 - 40.00	44.00 - 48.00
Pork Loin, 8-12#		38.00 - 41.00	47.50 - 51.00

## COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

	(In thousands of pounds)	Feb. 26, 1959	Feb. 25, 1958
Frozen Beef		158,386	160,876
Cured Beef		14,290	13,024
Total Pork		244,450	206,414
Lamb & Mutton		9,524	9,189

## RANCHES, FARMS

2,960-acre stock ranch	\$40,000
3,700-acre stock ranch	140,000
4,000-acre stock ranch	66,500
5,500-acre stock ranch	86,500
6,200-acre stock ranch	78,000
12,000-acre stock ranch	120,000

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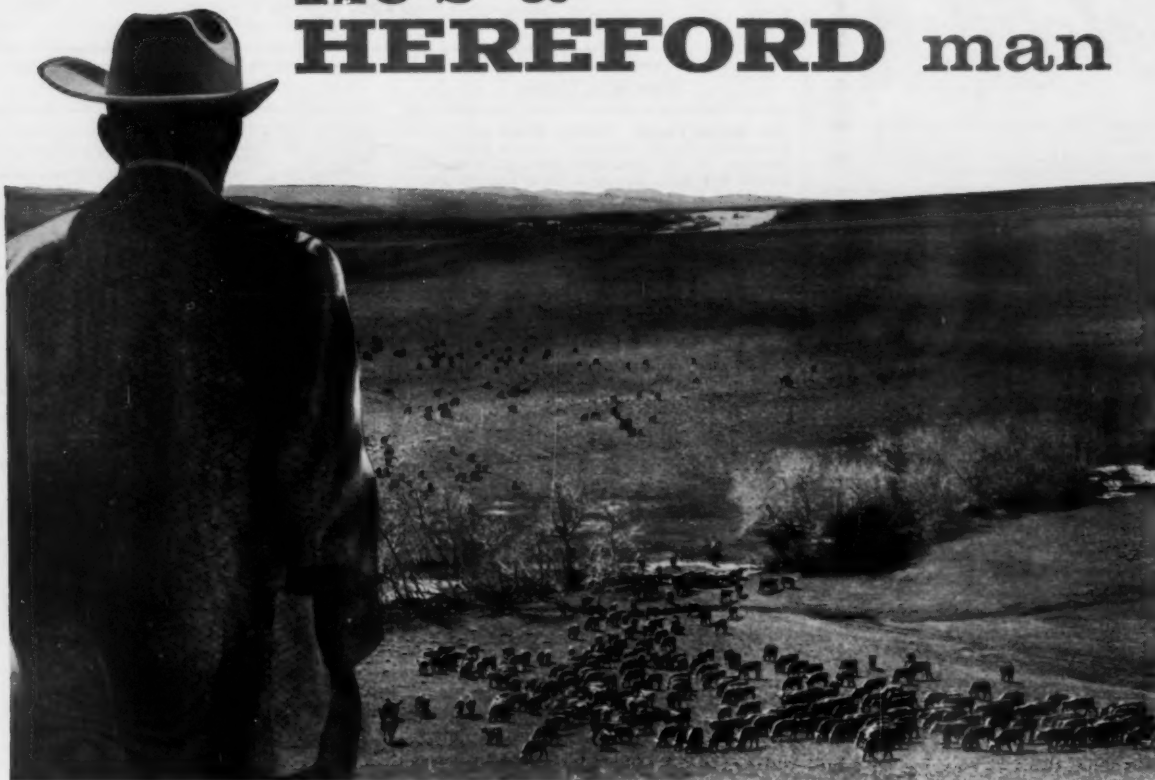
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